MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 FEBRUARY 1981

Iran

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to police officers, broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni called for harmony between policemen and revolutionary guards in safeguarding the cities, stopping the activities of "troublemakers" and handing over to the courts those who engage in "acts of terrorism." All the armed forces should be united, Khomeyni went on, and no section should operate independently. He warned that some members of a "fifth column" are trying to split the guards corps from the rest of the armed forces. These disruptive "conspiracies" are being carried out by "corrupt individuals" who have penetrated many places. Khomeyni also called on the armed forces not to interfere in political issues and never to lean toward "one group." Khomeyni added that "all the weapons" should be put at the disposal of "all the forces." Turning to writers and orators, Khomeyni noted that "some tongues" are "worse than clubs," having a harmful effect "hundreds of times worse than that of other clubs." Rather than create dissension and weaken morale, people should control their tongues, he said, and make sure that "pens are not partners with the daggers that are aimed at us from behind."

Nabavi on Strikes, Inflation--In a Tehran radio interview, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi warned the public against "counterrevolutionary elements" who are provoking and encouraging "strikes and chaos." Nabavi stressed that action will be taken to defeat the current strike by employees of the Tehran and Suburbs United Bus Company. The government will not give in to pressure, he said, but will call in volunteers from other cities to operate the buses. He indicated that the government is neither able nor willing to meet the strikers' demands for a New Year's bonus. Nabavi also revealed that the government has decided to freeze the prices of some 20 commodities in short supply to combat inflation.

Fate of Britons--Citing the revolutionary prosecutor's office, AFP reported that the three British missionaries held in Iran will be released in the next few days but that businessman Andrew Pyke is accused of fraud and spying and investigation of his case is continuing.

Oil Ministry Statement--An Oil Ministry spokesman strongly denied reports that Iran has given discounts and sold oil to "banned countries," Tehran radio reported, claiming that such "rumors" have been spread by "ill-intentioned" foreign newspapers and agencies.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

INA and Tehran radio reported continued exchanges of fire along most western and southern fronts. INA claimed that Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian camp across the border from Panjwin, scoring "direct hits" and returning safely to base, while Tehran radio asserted that Iranian fighters chased off Iraqi planes that appeared over southern and western border areas.

Iraq

The program content of Baghdad radio's Persian service has changed since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq conflict in September 1980. Until that time, the 3-hour program consisted mainly of talks and commentaries, quotes from speeches by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, a newscast, an Iraqi press review and a review of Iranian listeners' letters. In September, the radio began broadcasting appeals to the Iranian people and armed forces, interspersed with martial music, and on 20 November introduced a 1-hour program in Azeri. During December and January messages from Iranian POW's were carried, as well as commentaries critical of the Iranian regime and leadership. Talks on Kordestan and the Kurds were introduced in early February.

Kurdish Situation

Appeal for Unity in Iraq--In a statement broadcast on 21 February by the clandestine Voice of Iraqi Revolution radio, the "command committee" of the patriotic union of Kurdistan appealed for unity among Kurdish forces as a way to help end the "fascist regime" in Baghdad, establish "self-rule" in Kurdistan and create democracy throughout Iraq. The statement complained that one of the leaders of the patriotic union was arrested by members of the Unionist Socialist Party of Kurdistan when he went to negotiate with them. It condemned such "tribal" behavior and called for an end to "fratricide."

Clashes, Surrenders in Iran--Tehran radio reported various clashes with "counterrevolutionaries" and illegal armed groups between 19 and 23 February, citing incidents in Mahabad and Miandow Ab, while the clandestine Radio Iran said citizens and revolutionary guards fought in Naqadeh recently. Tehran radio also claimed that revolutionary guards unearthed a "considerable" quantity of arms and ammunition in Sanandaj on 19 February and that so far 100 people affiliated with illegal armed groups have surrendered with their arms in Paveh.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Interview--In a 22 February interview with Swedish newsmen reported by SPA, Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said Saudi Arabia buys sophisticated weapons from any country that can sell them. Even Soviet arms could be purchased, he indicated, if "American and European doors were closed" to the kingdom.

Denial of Planes Request--According to Riyadh television, the Saudi Ministry of Defense and Aviation denied a report, which it attributed to "the Zionist enemy's" radio, that Saudi Arabia has asked to buy Tornado aircraft jointly manufactured by the United Kingdom, Italy and the FRG. The West German news agency DPA, which had earlier reported the request, cited the FRG Government spokesman as saying on 23 February that his government "continues to believe" that Saudi Arabia wants to buy the aircraft.

Kuwait

The government submitted its resignation, KUNA reported, after the National Assembly election results were made public. The cabinet will serve in a caretaker role until a new government is formed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The Ash-Shariqah newspaper AL-KHALIJ accused the Egyptian intelligence service of being involved in the kidnapping of Jordan's Beirut charge d'affaires and claimed the diplomat may be held in Cairo. According to the newspaper, an Egyptian intelligence team cooperating with the rightwing Lebanese front arrived in eastern Beirut before the kidnapping.

Syria

Damascus radio reported that President Hafiz al-Asad held talks with EC Council of Ministers President Cristoph van der Klaauw.

Israel-Palestinians

The IDF General Staff announced a public callup exercise on 23 February, Jerusalem radio reported, mobilizing 10 reserve units. Reacting to the callup, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat ordered a state of alert among all Palestinian and joint forces, Voice of Palestine radio reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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USSR REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

JN231753 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] The Soviet Union has asserted that it will remain loyal to the friendship that links the Palestinian and Soviet peoples until the Palestinian people's just objectives for return to their homeland, self-determination and establishment of their independent state are achieved. This was stated by the deputy prime minister and first deputy of the state council for economic issues [title as heard] when he received the Palestinian delegation head by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddum], chairman of the PLO Political Department, which is participating in the 26th CPSU Congress.

Brother Abu al-Lutf praised the Soviet Union's stands, saying: The Palestinian people will not forget the Soviet Union's material, moral and political support. We are confident that the 26th CPSU Congress will take firm and historic decisions expressing the aspirations of the Soviet Union's peoples and guaranteeing peace in the world. They will also play a major role in championing peoples and supporting them to achieve their aspirations for liberation and independence from imperialist and Zionist influence.

The Palestinian delegation includes Brother Abu Mahir al-Yamani, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Talal Naji, members of the PLO Executive Committee.

'ARAFAT PRAISES BREZHNEV'S CPSU CONGRESS SPEECH

JN240754 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, received in Beirut yesterday Aleksandr Soldatov, the Soviet ambassador in Beirut. The meeting was attended by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah Central Committee member.

The Soviet ambassador conveyed a message from the Soviet leadership to Abu 'Ammar. Abu 'Ammar expressed his high appreciation for the speech delivered by President Brezhnev at the opening session of the 26th CPSU Congress, in which he discussed major world issues, particularly the Middle East issue; and stressed the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to establish an independent state, and the role of the PLO in leading the Palestinian people and participating in solving the Middle East issue.

In a statement to WAFA, Abu 'Ammar said: On behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian people, I would like to express my profound appreciation for the Soviet president's speech before the 26th CPSU Congress, particularly what he said about the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. This stand reaffirms the concern of the Soviet Union and all peace-loving forces for a just and firm peace to prevail in the Middle East based on the complete recognition of the Palestinians' national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, determine their destiny and establish their independent state, and the PLO's role in the Middle East issue and the Palestine cause, which is the central issue of the region.

The PLO believes that this constructive stand by President Brezhnev is a suitable and acceptable basis for establishing a just and firm peace in the Middle East and for eliminating the hotbed of Israeli aggression against our people and Arab nation, an aggression in which U.S. weapons are used daily against our people in Lebanon and Palestine from the ground, air and sea with the consent of the U.S. administration.

While welcoming this stand the PLO extends its warm greetings to President Brezhnev and the 26th CPSU Congress. It wishes the congress success in its work to achieve more progress and prosperity for the friendly Soviet people and to consolidate the role of the Soviet Union and the peace-loving forces in the struggle for just peace to prevail in the world.

'ARAFAT PLACES PALESTINIAN, JOINT FORCES ON ALERT

JN240740 (Clanestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last night ordered a state of alert among all the forces of the Palestinian revolution and the joint forces in light of the Zionist enemy's action in calling up its reservists and declaring a state of alert among the IDF forces for carrying out so-called military exercises.

'ARAFAT INSPECTS JOINT FORCES IN LEBANON

JN231953 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1845 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander in chief of the revolution forces, today made an inspection visit of the joint forces in southern Lebanon.

He held a military meeting which included the commander of the joint forces in the south, the official in charge of the Palestine Liberation Army, the director of general mobilization, the deputy commander of armed struggle and several commanders of the joint forces in the south.

All aspects pertaining to the military situation were discussed, particularly the Zionist military escalation in southern Lebanon and the results of the battle which took place last night in the villages of Al-Kufur and Zifta between Israeli parachutists and the joint forces.

During the battle the joint forces managed to abort the Zionist operation by confronting Zionist paratroops who were dropped by helicopters over the region and were almost a battalion in strength. However, due to the heroism and resistance of the joint forces, these forces could not achieve their goals.

Brother Abu 'Ammar lauded the joint forces' valiant confrontation.

COMMENTARY SCORNS U.S. POLICY REASSESSMENT

JN202125 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1805 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Palestinian revolution has experienced several U.S. eras and it has been its fate to struggle against all of them, gaining rich experience from which it has benefited a great deal in understanding the U.S. political game on all its levels and in adopting a correct stand toward this game that is not beset with illusions and false conclusions.

Perhaps the most prominent thing we have learned from our continued struggle against the successive U.S. administrations is the fact that the real indications of U.S. policy are neither the statements we read in the press nor the insinuations that reach us through volunteer or appointed mediators, nor even the speculations that are made on the role of a strategic reassessment, analysis and scrutiny. We understand these indications through the Zionist compass, which does not move to left or right except through the U.S. magnetic field.

There have been many statements which said that there are differences between America and Israel, and that the former intends to rectify its policy in the Middle East. Newspapers have often reported that the Americans are harboring a surprise for the Palestinians which will be on the level of granting them their rights or a part thereof. Meanwhile, however, we have seen the actual U.S. trend through the Zionist tool which is waging wars against us on all fronts, transforming positive U.S. statements and press reports into an illusion harped upon by weaklings and ruminated about by middlemen and those who have an interest in deceiving the Palestinian people, revolution and cause.

Now there is talk about a rectification of U.S. policy. We have heard this talk whenever the star of the U.S. President dips and that of another rises. Now there are whispers about a U.S. stand more realistic than in the past. We have heard many such whispers in the past. Above all, there are strident cries accompanied by actual practices which indicate that the escalation of the struggle is the real characteristic of the current stage and that this escalation is an American decision entitled: "The last attempt to get rid of the Palestinian struggle."

Naturally, the ready tool for this attempt is always the same: The Zionist enemy and those weaklings who volunteer to support him in striking against the Palestinian people and its revolution. We in the Palestinian revolution hear and see well and we deduce the sound stand well. We pay heed and listen to all those who offer us advice no matter who they are. However, we ultimately resort to our permanent, firm and sole yardstick to deduce the correct stand; namely, experience and commitment to and accurate understanding of our national interests. Hence, our current decision, as announced yesterday by Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is to respond in a revolutionary and nationalist manner to the current challenge inherent in the aggressive U.S. policy, which is hostile to the Palestinian people and their rights and national presence, and in this hostile policy's military and agent actions against the Palestinian revolution, specifically in southern Lebanon.

What we see happening every now and then in southern Lebanon, the information we have about military preparations by agents in Lebanon and the U.S. statements about Palestinian terrorism and about U.S. brigades to fight this terrorism provide us with a clear indication of the future U.S. trend, which is hostile and aggressive. In view of this trend, we have no choice but to cling to the confrontation decision and to provide its requisites and components. We have no other choice.

At any rate this choice is not new or extraordinary in our life and march. It is the only choice in the process of national struggle to bring about a just and genuine peace. It is the choice of Palestinian rights. There has never been any other choice in all the stages and under all the circumstances.

BAHRAIN

MINISTER DISCUSSES GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

GF181232 Doha AR-RAYAH in Arabic 16 Feb 81 p 3

[Interview granted by Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad to AR-RAYAH correspondent Salih Zaytun at the Ministry of Information in Manama--date not given]

[Excerpt] Commenting on the recent Riyadh meetings, which included the foreign ministers of six Gulf states and which approved the pact of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Bahraini information minister said: Every citizen in the Gulf should feel reassured when his leaders reach this stage of coordination. There was a great deal of development in official relations among the ministries and institutions of Gulf states during the seventies. This development preceded an important event, and that was the complete coordination in political issues and the deepening of this coordination through regular summit meetings, held in the interest of the region.

I believe that the period of the seventies prepared the way for a regular Gulf summit, which stressed coordination in the issues to be carried out by the institutions in the region's various states.

The region has considered the Islamic Conference summit and its side Gulf summit meeting in At-Ta'if to be an historic event. The Islamic summit interested all of us, and showed that we all spoke the same language and worked for the same goal--the interest of the region's citizens.

The Bahraini minister added: We are optimistic over the agreement reached at the foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh.

We are even more optimistic over the upcoming summit, which will soon be held and which will provide a new impetus for a united Gulf march.

Answering questions on the timing of this move, the implications of the quickly reached results, and the extent to which this move can represent the development of a union or unity, the minister said:

We believe that this Gulf move originates from the fact that the children and officials of the region move in the same direction with a desire to achieve coordination and face the world with a single united voice. This is the desire of the leadership and the desire of the sons.

This region of the world is unique because despite the existence of many governments, everyone knows that these governments are much closer to each other than many of those in federally united states. This closeness is truly manifested in relations among the various high-level institutions, the leadership and popular and civil institutions.

Thus, we believe it is high time for the declaration of this step, that is, of the establishment of a Gulf Cooperation Council. We are optimistic over the results.

On the next step of the implementation of matters agreed upon in Riyadh, Tariq al-Muayyad said:

What remains is that the various executive circles must prepare plans in order to carry out the desires of the leadership according to a certain periodic program. This is the task of the foreign ministers who will meet to prepare for the first Gulf summit within the framework of what was agreed upon in Riyadh.

We then discussed the various views formed after the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council--its nature, its similarity to the union of the emirates and the possibility that its presidency will assigned to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president. On these views the Bahraini information minister said:

What has so far been proposed is a Gulf Cooperation Council and not a union of emirates. Concerning the presidency, this will be rotational: One of the six leaders will hold the presidency of a summit session whenever a summit is held. As a matter of fact, there is no news on this matter.

On the reasons that prevented shifting the proposed form of cooperation to a closer from such as that of a union, the minister said.

Considering the political circumstances encircling the region, it is premature to speak of a union. Furthermore, the states that signed the council's agreement are realistic in their views, announcements and in the implementation of their plans, and thus prefer to declare things as they happen and not prematurely.

We then shifted the discussion with the minister from the question of the cooperation council to the second question; namely, parliamentary life in Bahrain and the rumors that Bahrain will follow Kuwait in calling for parliamentary elections following the suspension of the parliamentary council several years ago. At this moment the minister sat in an upright position and said:

To start with, I wish to explain that on this matter nothing new has happened. As is known from previous occasions, and at high levels, Bahrain did declare that the political system is always discussed by the government, which seeks to develop systems and institutions that agree with our history and the nature of our people, as well as the stage through which the region is passing. I believe that anything which happens in Bahrain at the political level must be related to what happens in the other states of the region. We realize that we are passing through a state in which most of our concern must be given to political coordination and economic and social unity among the region's peoples. I assure you that time will prove much of that which pleases those who wish this region the best. There is no reason for imitating the outside world, for we do have our own way of dealing with it.

[Question] What has been publicized as the next stage in the Gulf states emphasizes the parliamentary experience of Bahrain and Kuwait--which implies that Kuwait's preparation for a new parliamentary era will consequently create a similar atmosphere in Bahrain.

[Answer] We believe that democratic life in both Kuwait and Bahrain was never suspended. This region is known for its democratic style since the days of bedouinism, and its people do not distinguish between the ruler and the ruled. All government institutions are open to all people, and thus Bahrain's policy will always remain in accordance with what its sisters in the region do.

[Question] If this is so, and as long as Bahrain's policy will be in accordance with the policies of its sisters in the region, does this mean that Bahrain will restore parliamentary life for the same reasons that Kuwait did?

[Answer] Everything is possible.

KUWAIT

GOVERNMENT SUBMITS RESIGNATION FOLLOWING ELECTIONS

LD240946 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0922 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Feb (KUNA)--The Government of Kuwait submitted its resignation to the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah this morning a little while after the results of the parliamentary elections to the 5th National Assembly were made public.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah submitted his government's letter of resignation to Shaykh Jabir who issued an amiri order accepting the resignation and instructing the Cabinet to act as a caretaker government until the new government is formed.

Shaykh Sa'd formed his government after the Amir Shaykh Jabir came to power in the country in succession to the late Amir Shaykh Sabah as-Salam as-Sabah.

The National Assembly is expected to meet on 9 March.

MINISTER DENIES MUSCAT MEETINGS TO BE POSTPONED

LD211004 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0718 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 Feb (KUNA)--'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, today denied press reports about the possible postponement of two ministerial meetings of the Arab Gulf states set to be held in Muscat next month because they coincide with joint military maneuvers between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States.

Husayn told AL-QABAS that there is no change in the date of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council to be held in the Omani capital on 8 March. He said that no change is made to the date of the meeting of Gulf information ministers in Muscat in the middle of March.

The Kuwaiti minister said "there is no reason for postponement because there is a serious intention to speed up realization of the best form of cooperation among the Gulf countries."

QATAR

FRENCH INDUSTRY MINISTER ARRIVES IN QATAR 22 FEB

JN222011 Doha QNA in Arabic 1943 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Doha, 22 Feb (QNA)--French Industry Minister Andre Giraud and his delegation arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi this evening ona 2-day official visit to Qatar.

The French minister will hold talks with senior Qatari officials aimed at bolstering cooperation between Qatar and France in the field of energy and petrochemical industry. He will also attend the inauguration ceremony of the petrochemical complex and will visit the liquefied natural gas plant in Musay'id city tomorrow, Monday.

The French minister's visit to Qatar is part of a tour in the region that has so far taken him to the UAE.

Meeting With Amir

JN231006 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Doha, 23 Feb (GNA)--Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received here today French Industry Minister Andre Giraud, who is currently visiting Doha. They reviewed bilateral relations in the fields of industry and oil and the joint industrial projects and means to develop them.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, finance and oil minister; and Jean Paul Belivier, the French ambassador in Doha.

The French minister arrived in Doha yesterday at the head of a delegation on a 2-day visit to Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTRY DENIES RUMORS ON TORNADO PLANES

GF231951 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] The Ministry of Defense and Aviation has refuted reports by the Zionist enemy's radio alleging that West Germany had said the kingdom desired to purchase Tornado fighter planes manufactured by Britain, Italy and Germany. The ministry issued a statement in which it said that the Ministry of Defense and Aviation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while denouncing this report as fabricated, untrue and unfounded, does not find such allegations by the Zionist press strange. It has been the habit of the Zionist press to practice blackmail by propagating such fabrications.

SWEDISH KING ARRIVES IN JIDDA ON 4-DAY VISIT

GF201931 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Jidda at 2000 today on a visit to the kingdom that will last for 4 days.

The Swedish monarch was received at the airport by Mecca Deputy Amir Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, Jidda Governor Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sidiri, commander of the western region Gen Mansur ash-Shua'ibi, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry Salim Sungul, Chief of Royal Protocol in Jidda 'Abd al-'Aziz Jukhdar, Mecca Police Commander Maj Gen 'Ali al-Mashu't, the Swedish ambassador to the kingdom and a number of senior officials.

Fahd Meets Ulsten

GF221929 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, met with the Swedish deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Ola Ulsten, at 1230 today in the royal office in M'athar. The meeting was attended by Planning Minister Shaykh Hisham Nazir, Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud and the foreign under secretary for political affairs, Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri. Bilateral relations and issues of joint interest were discussed during the meeting.

UAE

EGYPT REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN DIPLOMAT'S ABDUCTION

GF231536 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 22 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources close to the Jordanian Government have said that Arab capitals have been exchanging information on the role of Egyptian intelligence in the abduction of Jordanian charge d'affaires Hisham al-Muhaysin in Beirut 2 weeks ago.

Prior to the abduction of the Jordanian charge d'affaires, AL-KHALIJ and Palestinian and Lebanese national movement sources noted the arrival of arms, equipment and an Egyptian intelligence team in eastern Beirut within the framework of cooperation between the Egyptian regime and the "Lebanese front."

The sources added that the Jordanian diplomat could have been transferred somewhere outside Beirut and that Cairo could be the place where he is currently held.

The Arab diplomatic sources confirm that it is not only this analysis which leads to the conclusion that the "Camp David alliance" is responsible for the abduction of Al-Muhaysin; subsequent reaction to the issue in Damascus, the Arab League (Tunis), and Beirut leads to the same conclusion.

The same sources also said that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi had postponed his official visit to Damascus while a Jordanian popular delegation was arriving in Damascus to confer with President Hafiz al-Asad. Following its 4-hour meeting, the Jordanian delegation issued an official statement declaring Syria innocent of Al-Muhaysin's kidnapping.

The sources indicated that Chedli Klibi contacted PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and expressed the Arab League's desire to obtain the PLO's help in finding a solution to the Al-Muhaysin crisis. The Arab League had received a memorandum from the Jordanian Government requesting it to do so.

The Arab sources explained that 'Arafat promised the PLO would exert a maximum effort in order to clear up the abduction of the Jordanian diplomat.

UAE ECONOMY CONTINUES RAPID GROWTH IN 1980

GF211028 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 21 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] The annual rate of economic growth in the UAE rose to 21.6 percent in 1980, exceeding that in the Western countries where the rate of growth was under 15 percent, or developing countries where it was under 5 percent.

According to the statistics for 1980 published by the Ministry of Planning, the high rate of growth was one of the main features of the federal economy.

The crude oil sector achieved a growth rate of 21 percent. The other important sectors that had achieved high growth rates were agriculture and fisheries 16.6 percent, the extractive industries 20.9 percent, construction 19.8 percent, trade 16.2, real estate 12.1 and transportation and communications 24.4.

The statistics indicate that the UAE is on the way to achieving its goal of gradually reducing its dependence on oil, by developing other resources.

According to the ministry, the main aim of development in the UAE is a continuing effort to increase the standard of living, both in the sphere of consumption as well as services. In 1980 the individual's share of the country's production amounted to about DH 100,000 ($26,000), the highest in the world.

The statistics show that the individual's consumption expenditure in 1980 was DH 28,000.

As a result of the endeavor to provide all services to citizens, the government's expenditure on the individual amounted to DH 15,400. The government also allocated a part of its revenues to development projects where the individual's share of the investment amounted to about DH 29,000.

The ministry also points out that since starting commercial production oil revenues have played a decisive and effective role in economic development.

Further, the oil revenues contributed to changing the UAE economy from one of limited effectiveness to a developed economy.

With regard to education, the ministry has pointed out that the education policy, which saw great expansion, aims at molding the character of the citizen and his participation in economic and social development.

It states that several steps were taken, with regard to education expansion, including the provision of free and compulsory education at the primary stage for nationals, and transportation and food for the pupils. The number of students in schools in 1980 was 124,000 while there were 1,768 male and female university students.

In the health sector the ministry states that the number of patients who received treatment at the hospital was 4.7 million approximately.

The ministry states that the housing sector witnessed great development. The number of the housing units constructed in 1980 was about 156,000. Low-cost houses were built and complete villages were established to create modern rural societies and bring about stability for nomads.

With regard to transportation and communication the ministry points out that 4,200 km of roads were completed in 1980.

The ministry states that the permanent investment in the water and electricity sector in 1980 was DH 2.7 billion and the electrical energy generated in the country amounted to 6.4 billion kmh.

PDRY

OFFICIALS ATTEND SOVIET ARMY CELEBRATIONS

LD240010 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Yesterday evening Brother 'Abd Al Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, candidate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, attended celebrations in the armed forces club on the occasion of the 63d anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army.

Brother Dr Abdallah al-Khamiri delivered a speech in which he hailed the principled stand of the Soviet Army and people and the role of the Soviet Armed Forces in maintaining the gains made by the world socialist system as well as maintaining the security of peoples of the world by preventing the occurrence of a third world war. He also expressed appreciation for the internationalist assistance provided by the friendly Soviet people for Democratic Yemen in all spheres through the close links between the two friendly armies.

Brother Lt Col 'Abdallah 'Ali Ulaywah, first deputy minister of defense and chief of general staff, also delivered a speech in which he touched on the eventful history and heroic deeds of the Soviet fighters in defense of socialism and internationalist principles. He also exprssed appreciation for the disinterested assistance provided by the USSR for national liberation movements atainst imperialism and to preserve world peace and security.

A speech was also made on behalf of the Soviet experts, which described the existing relations between Democratic Yemen and the USSR as relations of friendship and principled cooperation serving world peace.

U.S. PLANS TO BUILD BASES IN OMAN SCORED

LD202025 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 20 Feb 81 EA

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Brothers: At the beginning of last month the Qabus puppet government extended the period for bids for the construction of military barracks at the Masirah military base.

Some thought that this could be attributed to technical reasons, or perhaps it was to allow local contractors to rethink their estimates as a result of rising building costs, especially in Muscat, where it is difficult to devise a scientific instrument to measure rising costs over a specific period of time.

But investigations have revealed that the real reason behind the extension was to remove local contractors in order to entrust the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with carrying out improvements to the facilities that formerly served the British forces. The Corps of Engineers will be responsible for providing equipment and the necessary raw materials for the project from U.S. markets.

It is worth pointing out that these improvements are part of the implementation of the agreement signed by the puppet sultanate of Qabus and the Americans to enable them to acquire advanced facilities on the island. The cost of the project is about $210 million and it will be paid by the Qabus government to the Corps of Engineers. Some sources say that the deal is the first of a series of military projects which will be implemented in Khasab, Tamrayt and Sib. There is no technical or economic reason to exclude local companies.

The real reason behind this is military-cum-political. Neither the Qabus puppet government nor the U.S. Department of defense want any existing Arab company to learn the secrets of the military equipment that will be installed on the island. They will not be confined to services and facilities for Oman but will be used to serve U.S. strategy in the Indian Ocean. What is ludicrous in the situation is the fact that the puppet Qabus government is the one that will pay for the project, although the base will serve the U.S. forces.

This focuses light on one of the most dangerous aspects of the U.S. military presence in our country. Instead of using the $210 million for projects to benefit our people, we find that the money is being used to serve those who want to destroy the people and the rest of the masses in the region as well as the Arab nation.

With each sunrise more of the puppet Muscat regime's treachery against the Omani masses is revealed. This act of treachery is not the last, for the treacherous ones will continue their betrayal. But they must know that the revolution and the masses will not (?forget). The day of retaliation will surely come.

YAR

SAUDI, YAR FORCES REPORTEDLY CLASH ALONG BORDER

NC220921 Paris AFP in English 0903 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Beirut, 22 Feb (AFP)--The North Yemen opposition national democratic front said today that Saudi Arabian and North Yemeni forces had clashed after Saudi troops crossed the border near Al-Bokaa in Sa'adah Province.

In a statement published in the daily AS-SAFIR the front said that the Saudi forces had "occupied a new area of North Yemeni territory at Diraa," and had set up a camp and control points.

Five North Yemeni nationals, whose names were given, had been arrested by the Saudi forces and taken to their intelligence services' jail at Najran, just over North Yemen's northern border, the front added.

The statement did not say when the clashes began but said they were still continuing intermittently yesterday.

The front also said that Saudi Arabia had stopped giving aid to North Yemen following conflict between North Yemen President 'Ali Abdallah Salih and one of Riyadh's strongest supporters, Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, a member of the National Consultative Council and head of the Hashid tribe.

President Salih was also at odds with Shaykh Mujahid Abu Shawarib, vice-chairman of the council for the interior, the front said.

DJIBOUI JUSTICE MINISTER ARRIVES IN SAN'A'

JN211344 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Helaf Orbis, Djibouti justice and Muslim affairs minister, arrived in San'a' today heading his country's delegation to the second conference of Arab justice ministers.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Helaf said that the delegation expects good and successful conference results.

He was received by Attorney General 'Abd ar-Razzaq ar-Raqaysi; 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Fadli, head of the disciplinary court; several justice officials and a delegate of the Foreign Ministry ceremonies office.

DJIBOUTI INTERIOR MINISTER COMPLETES 3-DAY VISIT

JN211326 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Djibouti interior minister left San'a' this morning for home after a 3-day visit to the YAR during which he held discussions with Interior Ministry officials on enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Idriss Abaneh described his visit to San'a' as successful and fruitful. He said he delivered to brother leader Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih a written message from his brother President Hassan Gouled on bilateral relations.

At the conclusion of his statement Abaneh expressed his satisfaction at the positive results of his visit.

He was seen off by the brother interior minister, the ministry under secretaries and several Interior Ministry officials.

AS-SADAT ADDRESS TO NDP LEADERSHIP 19 FEB

NC200827 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1843 GMT 19 Feb 81

[Speech by President Anwar as-Sadat at 19 February meeting with National Democratic Party leaderships in Cairo--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. Kinsmen, brothers and sisters, the sons of the National Democratic Party [NDP]: After returning from my tour to Europe, it was my duty to meet with you to acquaint you with what has been done during this tour in order that we may stress the basic principles of our policy and of the present stage.

I actually started thinking about my visit to the European Parliament 2 months ago at the end of last year, precisely in December. As you know, the U.S. elections, which resulted in the victory of President Reagan, made it necessary that a period of time should be given to President Reagan and the new U.S. administration to study the steps already taken along the path of the process of peace and then form an opinion. This takes time, which is something natural. This is why I started thinking of going to Europe to maintain the tempo of the peace process.

As I have repeatedly told you and our people, we are in constant motion. At the very start, as I told you, we took our issue in our hands. It was inconceivable that we should have a cause and allow a guardian or anybody else to speak on our behalf. This is something which our Arab brothers continue, regrettably, to insist on. Well, they refuse to sit together with Israel, which gets the upperhand by resorting to the following simple logic: You have a problem with me. Why don't you come and discuss your problem with me. I have a land which belongs to you. Why don't you come so that we may discuss this matter?

The Arab line which is, regrettably, still prevailing, either because of complexes, inefficiency, fear or ignorance, has always been that the Arabs have nothing to say but the word "no" to everything. For example, when the Arabs met in Baghdad, they adopted resolutions and said: We are for a peaceful settlement. They added: Israel must surrender the land it occupied in 1967. They said this when they met in Baghdad. After this, every one of them went to the capital of his country to reiterate the same thing. Israel answered them saying: Anyone who has an issue, let him come and defend it. Let him come and study it with me. If nobody wants to come, then the land will remain occupied.

We took our issue in our own hands because we have reached the age of maturity. Egypt reached the age of maturity 7,000 years ago. Moreover, we can never place the fate of Egypt in the hands of people whose actions are governed by complexes, fear, ignorance and many other things. It is not only the fate of Egypt which we cannot place in their hands but also the fate of the Arab issue. Now that we have taken our issue in our hands, we will never permit any force to become our guardian.

In this regard, let me remind you of the following: The Soviet Union had some doubts when 'Abd an-Nasir, God bless his soul, was still alive. It was obvious that these doubts were delaying the process of supplying arms to us after the 1967 defeat, thereby prompting us to prove ourselves and decide by ourselves. It is true that when the Soviet Union had its doubts we told them: Speak with the Americans. However, the Soviet Union was never authorized to determine our fate. We know that the United States, then under President Johnson, backed Israel unrestrictedly and unconditionally. To remove its doubts, we told the Soviet Union to speak with the Americans. Despite this, 'Abd an-Nasir felt desperate before his death in 1970. On one May Day celebration in Shubra al-Khaymah, 'Abd an-Nasir addressed the United States. Nixon was the U.S. President then. 'Abd an-Nasir addressed the American people and the U.S. President: Tell us whether you actually want a peace based on justice or whether you are unable to exert pressure on Israel. We want to know your position. The result was, as you know, the emergence of the Rogers plan which 'Abd an-Nasir accepted while sitting at the negotiations table in the Kremlin.

'Abd an-Nasir was in the Kremlin in July negotiating with the Russians. They made him sick, tired and disgusted. He told the three leaders at the negotiations table, Brezhnev, Kosygin and Podgornyy: I now accept the U.S. Rogers plan. He said this at the negotiations table in the Kremlin. Why? It is because they made him sick. We actually accepted the Rogers initiative. 'Abd an-Nasir died, as you remember, in September. The 90 days specified by the initiative in its first stage had not yet expired. They expired after 'Abd an-Nasir's death and we renewed it.

I will go back to my talk. We took our issue in our own hands. Let me remind you, because a reminder benefits the faithful. We have taken our issue in our hands since the first moment. It was 4 months, no, 3 months after I assumed the responsibility--I assumed the responsibility on 16 October 1970--a little over 2 months, precisely on 24 December 1970, the then Prime Minister Dr Fawzi transferred to me a letter from U.S. President Nixon thanking us for participating in Eisenhower's funeral, which Dr Fawzi had attended. Nixon sent a letter of thanks to Dr Fawzi and told him: I wish you to convey to President as-Sadat--our diplomatic relations were cut off then--my greetings and wishes which I am expressing in this letter and tell him that we want the relations between us to be at their best.

Dr Fawzi sent me this letter on 24 December 1970, 2 months and few days after I assumed office. I summoned the official in charge of U.S. interests in Egypt and asked him to send a message to the U.S. President telling him that I was grateful for the good wishes he sent me through Dr Fawzi and that if he wants to make one step toward the restoration of relations and peace to the area, then we will be prepared to take two steps in this direction.

This was my first move. As I have told you and as we shall see, we are in a constant motion to attain Egypt's goals; we can never stop.

This is what I did on 24 December. A letter was sent to Nixon in which I told him: Never think that the Soviet Union is our guardian. If you discuss any agreement with the Soviet Union or if you reach anything, then let it be known that you must come and obtain our approval and not that of the Soviet Union on anything which concerns Cairo. [applause]

This happened on 24 December 1970. Now that we have taken our issue in our own hands, I believe in constant motion. It was not possible for me to launch a military battle at that time. Therefore, it was my duty to launch a political battle. I started this battle directly after I assumed office. I sent my first letter to Nixon, in answer to his own letter, after 2 months and few days since I assumed office; this happened in December. Two months later, on 4 February, I announced my first initiative at the parliament and said that we were prepared to enter into negotiations and a peace agreement with Israel provided that it evacuates etcetera, etcetera, and provided that UN representative Gunar Jarring assumes the implementation of Resolution 242 on Israel's withdrawal.

What I want to say is that we are in a constant motion. Why? It is because we have taken our issue in our own hands. We must never permit our efforts to come to a halt as long as we have an issue and as long as we have rights which we have not yet regained. We must keep on moving and we must regain them. We must remain in constant motion. The constant motion could be either of a political or military nature. We have moved in both directions. I started with the political part, as I told you, on 24 December, 2 months after I assumed office. I followed it on 4 February, 5 months after I assumed office, with my first initiative. As a result of this initiative Rogers came and visited us, but it became evident that he was unable to implement what he said. He was dismissed from the State Department as a result of Israeli pressure.

I continued to prepare for the battle but I kept on moving politically as well. I visited the Soviet Union twice in 1971. The first time was on 1 March and the second on 11 October 1971. This indicated a constant motion. My instructions to the armed forces were constant motion and continuous training to wage our battle. However, what was possible at this time was the political line. Therefore, we went ahead with the political line while the military line was also moving with the same speed and tempo.

I also visited, twice, the Soviet Union in 1972, as you remember. The first visit took place on 1 February 1972 and the second at the end of April 1972; less than 2 months separated the two visits. In other words, I made four visits in less than 1 year after I took office. Why? It is because the issue must remain in constant motion and the military effort must continue.

After my visit at the end of April, the detente took place in May. The detente declaration which provides for military relaxation was issued. Military relaxation meant no military moves by both sides when Israel was still occupying my land on the east bank and 20 steps ahead of me in armament. Applying the military relaxation would have meant that Israel would remain on the east bank while I would relax militarily. My answer to this was immediate. It came in the form of expelling 17,000 Soviet experts. I told them: You want a military relaxation. You make me sick. I visited you four times in less than 1 year and I am doing all I can. Finally, you come and say military relaxation with the United States in order that Israel may remain 20 steps superior to me and that I may relax militarily? I wanted to give them a shock [last word spoken in English] as they said. Therefore, I expelled the 17,000 experts in 1972. [applause] This is how we moved. We entered the battle in 1973. The first disengagement took place in 1974. This is a constant motion. The second disengagement took place and the Suez Canal was reopened in 1975. The process is interwoven and the caravan extends to the fields of economy, open-door policy, politics and the armed forces and in all fields as we see today.

The Soviet Union imposed an embargo on us in 1976. I contacted Indhira [Ghandhi] and told her: Sell us spare parts. She sought the permission of the Soviet Union and contacted me saying that it objected to sending the spare parts. We retaliated by abrogating the Soviet-Egyptian treaty because the Soviet Union did not live up to its duties. Instead of fulfilling its treaty commitments to supply our armed forces with the arms necessary to liberate our land, the Soviet Union imposed an embargo on me. Therefore, there was no reason for the treaty. This political move took place in 1976.

We started preparing for the Geneva conference in 1977. This was a constant political motion. We prepared for the Geneva conference and Carter participated with us. I visited the United States and Carter worked and did his utmost for convening the Geneva conference, as we had agreed. It became evident that all this was to no avail. He sent me a letter in October 1977 saying: I am sorry because the differences among you as Arabs are worse than your differences with Israel. I picked up the telephone and told the Foreign Ministry: Tell this minister, who is in New York, to go to Washington and ask for an urgent appointment with Carter and tell him: As-Sadat wishes to tell you that Yasir 'Arafat says that the Palestinians will be represented in the unified Arab delegation by three American professors of Palestinian origin. The man wasted no time. When the ambassador contacted him directly, Carter told him come at once. When the ambassador conveyed his message, Carter was really astonished and told the ambassador: Are you sure of what you say. The ambassador said: You will be receiving a letter from As-Sadat. Carter did not believe this at first but he was very happy because the Geneva conference would convene and because we had solved the problem of Palestinian representation.

After leaving me, Yasir went to Beirut and Damascus to say: This has never happened. I did not say this. It became clear that they [the Arabs] were afraid of each other. They suffered from complexes, the spirit of defeatism and complexes of ignorance. There was no way to keep the motion other than embarking on my initiative. I embarked on my initiative in November 1977. We have not stopped since, as you can see.

In 1978 we concluded the Camp David agreement and in 1979 we concluded the treaty and recovered 80 percent of the Sinai. In 1980 we continued the autonomy process for the sake of the Palestinians. Our actions are, therefore, not only for the sake of Egypt but for the sake of the entire Arab issue--because this is Egypt's responsibility. Others are working on a regional basis--for their own sake. Not us, Egypt has the responsibility of leadership--whether they like it or not. Well, after the treaty we concluded in 1979, there was nothing between us and Israel. We recovered 80 percent of the Sinai. In April 1982, we will recover the remaining 20 percent. As you heard, the United States will be sending Sterner next week with regard to the formation of the international emergency force which will replace the present forces [UNTSO] after the final [Israeli] withdrawal from the Sinai in April 1982.

Thus, the process is not at a standstill. As I told you, in 1980 we were still working for the Arab and the Palestinian cause despite the abuses, shamelessness, obscenities and attempts to blockade and starve us. We did not question [presumably meaning protest] any of the above and the caravan is going on because, as long as we have a right, we must pursue its attainment in a perpetual motion.

I related all of the above as an introduction to the reason why I went to Europe. Why did I go to Europe indeed? Because we must remain in a perpetual motion. This year, we must wait until Reagan prepares himself for the [peace] process and until he reviews the details so that the new administration can formulate its viewpoints and plans on this subject and so that they can sit and debate with us. This is his right [presumably referring to Reagan].

But we must not stop moving in the meantime. There is a body called the European Parliament. For the first time, an elected parliament representing 260 million Europeans has been formed in Europe. This parliament also representing 10 European countries, was elected in a direct and free manner and represents Europe's will and its people. This is a gift from heaven now that we have the opportunity to talk with all the people of Europe in their parliament as part of our perpetual motion.

I went and talked to them--as you all saw on television which relayed the entire session. I delivered my speech, which was very clear. I have an advice to our Arab brothers, namely: Should they take the trouble to read my speeches, such as the Knesset speech and my speech at the European Parliament, they would find that I said things to the entire world which they themselves could not say in front of the microphone. I said these things in the Knesset and in the European Parliament. I spoke with the Europeans--as you all saw--and they were extremely happy; they fully support our line. Why? Because we state the facts and the Europeans have come to realize that we are not two-faced, that we have one line, and that what we say in secret we announce to the public as well. This is why they respect us and our line.

After the meeting with the European Parliament, I returned to France, as you all saw and read. This gives me the opportunity now, on behalf of you all: I send my greetings to the French people because the French people's feelings toward the Egyptian people are extraordinary and this applies to Egypt's policy and concepts as well--really extraordinary.

When I was in the European Parliament, it was essential that we give impetus [to the peace process]. As I have told you we are in constant political or military motion. We will not abandon any of our rights. As we know, the proverb here says: The right of a person will never be lost if he persists in demanding it. Right will never be lost so long as there is somebody who continues to demand and insist on it.

I do not have to tell you what happened in Europe. You have heard everything and the newspapers published everything. The parliament's session was clear. When riding in the car together with Simone Veil, the president of the European Parliament--who is a French national--on our way to the European Parliament, I saw a huge and tall building of about 20 floors near the parliament. Next to this building was a low building which consists of the hall only. There are no floors above this hall. There was this huge and tall building and the low building, consisting of the hall only, was next to it. She told me: This is the hall and this building has more than 20 floors. I said: What is this building? Does it house the secretariat or what? She said: No, the second building houses the secretariat. What do you think these 20 floors are? I said: If the secretariat is in the other building, then what is this? We saw the conference hall, which is the low building. The secretariat, you say, is also in this building. What is this building then? She said: This 20-story building functions 24 hours-a-day for translations into the various languages of the 10 EEC member states. The 20 floors operate all 24 hours. Why? There are only 10 member states but each state has its own languages. For example, there is the Dutch language in Holland but its people speak German and French also. Belgium speaks Flemish in addition to German and French.

I told myself: How disappointing the Arabs are, Oh God. We, the Arabs, speak one language. The Europeans have a 20-story building working 24 hours-a-day to cope with the languages of the conferees from the 10 states. On the other hand, we do have a common language, common fate, common history and common creed. The Europeans were able to set up this parliament after 20 years. What does this parliament do? It represents Europe following the EEC unity which you have heard about. When they established the European unity, they were not like our Arab brothers. They have no conflicts because they are mature people, living in their age. Nobody can forget that what has happened between Germany and France throughout history is worse than what has happened between us and Israel. Genscher was with me before I came to you. He reminded me of this and I told him that I said this to our people here.

Genscher told me today: Following the line of horrible enmity and of mobilization on both sides, no hope loomed ever on the horizon that Germany and France would come to an agreement at any stage, but today if the rulers of Germany and France wanted to resume the issue, they wouldn't be able to do so because the peoples are convinced that they have common interests. This is all over now.

Why is this? Why should this [state of affairs] continue when we [and the Israelis] are neighbors and will remain so forever. Why is this? They [the Europeans] are civilized and mature and reached [this level]. What is the result of the EEC? The USSR and the United States are no longer the only superpowers. Europe is now making itself a superpower in technology, science and economy. Had it not been for this, Europe would have lagged behind. As you know, this is because in the past Europe's economy was based on colonies. They were colonialists. This is why I told them in the European Parliament--you, they and the world heard me--forget the policies of the past. There should be no [military] bases for colonization. Discard this and let us be partners in the interest of all.

They lost the colonies, but they had reached a standard of living that they had to maintain. With the establishment of the EEC, the surplus in one commodity, food, can feed the entire world. In the FRG the government pays the owner of a cow the price when he slaughters it. When he slaughters a cow, he sells the meat and receives its price too. Why? Because Europe is satiated, the warehouses are full and there is no room left for meat. The same applies to all other farm produce such as butter, cheese, milk products and all other types of food.

The same thing is happening in the United States. In the past year the U.S. Government told the grain farmers to cultivate only half their land and paid them for the uncultivated parts. Why? Because the grain stockpiles in the U.S.--in the farmers' and U.S. Government silos--increased so much that it would take years to consume. Also there are grain crops every year and that is why the government told the farmers to cultivate only half their land, and paid them for this. This is plentiful production. If there were a common Arab market, which Nawfal [secretary general of the League of the Muslim and Arab Peoples] would establish, God willing, a common Arab market and a common Islamic market alongside the League of the Arab and Muslim peoples, and not the Arab League--which has been here and which has finished once and for all--when we could do this [sentence incomplete]. As I told you, now Europe cannot find a place to send this [surplus] food, and the whole world is suffering from the lack of it. In the FRG, a man slaughters a cow and still receives its price. I imagine that this could happen in the Arab world. At present the Arab world has all the international capital. The oil revenue is estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars. Not only is the Arab capital available, but also energy. Some 60 percent of the energy reserves is in the Arab world. What would happen if we established such a market? We have all the capital we want, and the energy reserve, which the entire world will need for the next 50 years. The uses of energy are growing. What would happen if we used the mind of the modern age? The Arab countries will earn 10 times more than what they are earning now.

Sudan alone has 80 million feddans of virgin alluvial [tamm] land. This is not ordinary land. It has 80 million feddans of alluvial land. This means we can cultivate this land for 10 years without using any fertilizers. This is virgin land which has not been cultivated since creation. The Nile runs underneath it. The water is available. This is only one country--called Sudan.

I wonder what would happen if the Arabs were to establish such a market. But how can they do this? Each of them would come and look at the procedure and find out that he must present the budget of his country. This is something ordinary in the EEC. There is the budget of France, that of Germany and of so and so. This budget shows what the agricultural allocation is and what allocation is made for what. Here, the Arabs do not want their budgets known to each other. Also, should such budgets be presented, they would reveal that individuals in the Arab nation possess more than the governments.

As you have already heard me say, only what is right will prevail in the end, whether they like it or not. The day will come, God willing, when we will start the Arab parliament, at the hands of the League of Islamic and Arab Peoples, perhaps. We will start it gradually within the narrowest limits, together with those who wish to join us. History and evolution will inevitably stop the looting of the peoples' assets, being done to benefit individuals and of the police states around us, which are not respected as states at all. All these must return [to the right path] because Egypt will set the example.

I was really sorry for our brothers when Simone Veil told me that a 20-story building was used for translations only.

Denmark speaks Danish. Every EEC state has its own language in addition to a second, or third language in some of them. Despite this, they are able to sit together, reach an understanding, make gains and maintain--and even raise their standard of living after their colonies were liberated and the looting and plundering ended. They got together and actually managed to maintain their standard.

The idea came to me that we are proceeding along the right path--because this was our aim when we advocated the establishment of a League of Arab and Islamic Peoples and not of governments.

When I went to address the European Parliament, I was told: Be careful. This is a parliament of peoples and not of governments. Do not talk to governments here but speak to all the peoples of Europe. I was actually told that there are some governments, whose stands may not be approved by their peoples. I thanked God.

This was the reason for my trip and my remarks are that we are in constant motion to achieve our aims. The aim to liberate the land has been achieved, praise be to God, by the conclusion of the 1979 treaty. We took back 80 percent of the land in 1979 and we will get back the remaining 20 percent in April 1982. This is 1981.

No problem is left for us. Well, an issue exists for us and it stems from our responsibility for leadership and from the honor of the leadership with which Egypt has been endowed by God, not by anybody else. The reason is that God has granted this people these potentials [applause]. Our responsibility dictates that we continue moving, and we are moving. God willing, before the end of this year, God willing, we will sign the autonomy [agreement] for the Palestinians--God willing. [applause] This has been the reason for my trip to Europe.

Constant motion is not solely confined to politics; it should also exist on the domestic scene so we can achieve our goals of prosperity, democracy and peace. Thank God, we have achieved peace. Only prosperity and democracy remain for us to attain.

As far as democracy is concerned, we have gone over and above 90--and even 99--percent in democracy. We continue moving. This process does not come to a halt. I am delighted these days when I watch People's Assembly and Consultative Council debates on television. The institutions, vitality and effective popular participation in Egypt's affairs have begun functioning through the institutions.

The executive estate is the government. The legislative estate is the People's Assembly, in addition to the Consultative Council. The judicial estate also exists. The fourth estate, which is now upcoming, is the press. We are not harrassed by the fact that they have raised a din about the question of bylaws and such things. Well, the higher press council is about to be formed and it will consider these things. Then, why did we form the Consultative Council? We have called it the Council of the Family. The reason is that we will discuss all things within this council through the expression of opinion and counteropinion. This is absolutely not an attempt to dictate viewpoints, muzzle the press or steer it in accordance with our wishes. Absolutely not! We want to choose the best possible system through the consensus of all of us.

However, and before we leave the theme of the press, I want to mention the upcoming elections. I wish the journalists now sitting with us will hear me and convey this statement to their papers. The press union includes 1,800 registered journalists, of whom more than 1,500 are good, honorable Egyptians. I would not say anything about the rest, but they are tinted, not with the color of Egypt, but full of hatred and bitterness.

The 1,500 journalists are now required to express their will because we confront, not circumvent, reality. So that a journalists union could emerge, it should indeed represent the majority of the journalists--and these journalists are not just the majority; they are 1,500 out of 1,800. [applause]

There is a regrettable thing. If you heard the radio that Baghdad has set up against us, which is called the Voice of Free Egypt, some of those who broadcast on this radio are still registered until today in the journalists union, and some publish books and other publications in London and Paris and write in magazines in Kuwait and the Gulf, and they are still members of the journalists union. For your information journalists--and convey it to the journalists--this is rejected and you must revolve this situation. If you do not resolve it yourselves, I will go to your guardian, the Consultative Council, and tell it the whole story and ask it to do it. [applause]

Let my journalist sons rest assured that no extraordinary measures will ever be taken. Why did I leave the ownership of the press for the Consultative Council? The reason is that there can be no guarantee greater than a full council of 220 members who hold views, who have ideas and who can in all freedom sit and hold public discussions.

I think that there is no better guarantee than this. A popular council composed of 220 members--not the Information Ministry or even the executive authority--will discuss and decide.

I say this so that we will not waste our time in the future on things we hear about the freedom of opinion, democracy, and so forth. All this talk is rejected because those who say such things are people whose inclinations, hatred and emotionalism are known. These are not the Egyptian people, nor the Egyptian press. As I said, we must continue moving. In such movement, the press must be corrected, exactly as in the case of intensive agriculture; I searched for 3 years to find the starting point to plant and cultivate crops within the shortest possible period. You all know that the experiment is going on now. God willing, in 1981--is 'Uthman [deputy prime minister] here or not? [Voices in background reply in the negative]. He did not come--by the end of 1981, God willing, he must deliver to me 50,000 planted feddans of land, God willing--not reclaimed. My problem is not land reclamation; my problem is agriculture, production. He must deliver to me 50,000 and the services connected with them. God willing, I hope next year we can, through a second company besides that of Husayn and the Arab contractors, prepare 100,000 or 150,000 feddans for agriculture.

We have learned the technology and the method. The studies have been made according to the latest technology and science. Everything is ready for application. What remains is to exert the effort.

This is a summary about my trip. During my trip I affirmed all the principles of our policy, because we do not change. We do not change unless there is a need for change.

The only new thing that caused reverberations was the story of the formation of a provisional Palestinian government, although this is an old subject. I was asked today while I was with Genscher what was behind this story. An American journalist told me: We in the world do not take your words lightly. We know that there is a meaning behind every word you say. What was behind your statement? Did you agree with specific states before making this proposal or are you preparing something?

I told him: I will tell you frankly. There is something that prompted me to make my proposal. I did not want to say it before.

The simple Palestinian is complaining today that Syria is imposing its will on the organization and on the future of the Palestinian issue. We all know what is Ba'thist Syria today. It got to the point where PLO officials say that Syria has sacrificed the Palestinian issue in favor of Syria's Ba'th, but we cannot say this openly. I say it openly on their behalf. Some of them will deny this. But this happened, and was communicated to me semiofficially. I told the journalist that this is the reason.

As I said when I was with Kreisky the day before yesterday, I want to see the PLO as a provisional government and Yasir 'Arafat taking the decision just as I take the decision with you. I want to see him sitting with his Palestinian council and taking a decision just as I sit with the Cabinet, the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council and the party and take our decision. This is what I want. I want them to take their issue into their own hands.

I do not want their issue to be subject to the whims of the 'Alawite Syrian Ba'th party or to pressures by the Soviet Union, which is occasionally threatening them. This is the issue. But you all know the truth of the matter.

In 1973, when the Palestinian council met here at the Arab League, I stood before it and told it: Golda Meir says that there is nothing called Palestine or Palestinians in history. In answer to this, form your own government and I shall recognize it immediately. [applause] This took place before the entire Palestinian council.

Do you know what happened the next day? Al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi, who were our partners in the federation state, sent me messages--and I announce it here and let the journalists write it--blaming me and saying: How could you say this without prior agreement among us? This is because neither Al-Asad nor Al-Qadhdhafi want a Palestinian government. [applause] They want to cause turmoil among the Palestinians, as they are doing today.

The problem is that the Palestinians say this secretly, but openly they say that there was nothing of this sort, and that Egypt is a traitor. All this does not bother us any more, and we are going ahead.

Domestically, everything is going ahead as it is in foreign affairs. Militarily, we achieved our aims; we achieved peace, that is over with, and there will be no retreat from peace.

Movement on the home front is your responsibility and that of the party's. In the period between now and next summer, we must first complete the organizational ladder in the party. Second, through popular development inside the party, we must, God willing, bring prices under control. Why? The price of vegetables went up. The price of basic commodities can go up under certain circumstances.

I told Deputy Prime Minister 'Uthman that by 15 May I want the popular development, which is from the people and not a government--the food security companies, the banks, and the governors--to form the necessary bodies to receive all the production of the institutions in the governorates and distribute it among those who deserve support. This means that an egg must not be sold for 5 piasters to those who can afford it and for 9 piasters to those who cannot afford it. This is a crime against the country. I was talking to the governor of Al-Munufiyah. He sells the egg for 35 mils. I heard that in upper Egypt the egg is sold for 35 mils. Let it be 40 mils, but to go up to 9 piasters? How can this be? The same applies to vegetables. The government cannot control this system.

Those who can control it are the people--that is you, the party--through popular development, which are the food security companies. They should take from the producer and deliver directly to the consumer. The middlemen are the criminals who raise the prices of meat, vegetables and fish. [applause]

Everybody eats hamburgers at Whimpy. Isn't that so? Let us bring it here. The price of 1 kilogram [of hamburger meat] is 1 pound, because it contains (?fat). They eat it. How much is the sandwich? Is it 16 piasters? [Someone in the audience says it is 26 piasters] They are thieves. [laughter]

By God, then these are the thieves, because the kilogram of this meat is sold for even less than a pound. I have asked Deputy Prime Minister Engineer 'Uthman to bring a huge stock of this meat to give out to the people for a pound and even for less than a pound. A person would be able to eat meat daily if he so desires.

Furthermore, the issue at stake is not only one of prices. No, for every 50,000 feddans now being cultivated, a basic town will be set up to extend public services and to serve all aspects of activity in this cultivated area--and this will solve the housing problem for me.

Therefore, we must maintain the momentum of the party this year. We must complete the party's organizational scale. We must make headway and devastating achievements in the domains of food security and housing.

The governors have large areas of uncultivated land. They should not wait. The banks are now available, the funds are available and we have reduced the interest rates. No one can find any excuses any longer, never. In addition to the uncultivated lands in the governorates, we will also cultivate the new 50,000 feddans I have mentioned to you, which, God willing, will increase to 150,000 feddans 2 or 3 years from now.

Now I broach the organizational scale. What is required of you in the organizational scale as a party? Two things are required in political action or in a political party. There is the base that gives the votes and there are the cadres. I set an example to some of my brothers [words indistinct] with me. I mentioned Peres to them. The reason is that all these processes have become scientific. Peres wants to win a majority in the upcoming elections. For the first time in Israel's history he wants to win a majority for his party so that he can form the government from his own party only without needing other parties to join him in a coalition and cause him troubles. This has not happened in Israel since its inception. There has always been a coalition in Israel. However, by winning a majority, a party can secure a parliamentary majority to accede to power.

Therefore, Peres made his calculation. He found out that the base that gives him the votes is now perhaps 500,000--that is, 500,000 voters. If he raises this number by another 100,000--that is, if he makes them 600,000--the computer calculated for Peres that he can win a majority of over 60 seats, which he requires to form a government drawn only from the Labor Party. Science serves everything.

Now, as I have said, you are facing two phases. The first phase is that of the votes, which gives us the votes, and this is 99.9 [percent]. Is it not so? We will win 99.9 and we will not settle for less. Nor should we settle for less. It is imperative for you to preserve our base which gives us the votes. This is the reason why this base should join the party. This is why I said in Aswan: Open the doors [of the party to the people]. Nor should any one bring only his own people and forget the others. No, to us the party belongs to all of Egypt [applause] and national ideology is above political ideology. I want the broad base beneath to be formed and I want the 99.9 to join the party.

The second phase is the cadres. Our cadres school--that is, the studies institute--should consistently graduate the cadres who strengthen our base in confronting all problems, or when a referendum or something similar is held.

I also want you to study a problem with me that we really need to study as a party--namely, the opposition. Regrettably, the present opposition has not fulfilled the aspirations attached to it. We were the ones who created it. Weren't you with me when we went and signed its birth? Today, however, the opposition has turned into one of abuse, ill manners, doubt-casting and attempts to undermine all the country's values in the name of democracy. They associate themselves with the scum. It is regrettable. You all see this and read about it. This kind of opposition is not right. This is not opposition at all. These are circles of spite and hate. We must think as a party because we uphold sound democratic practice of majority and opposition.

We, as I have told you, are the guardians of the 23 July and 15 May revolutions and of the dignity of the Egyptians people--we, the National Democratic Party. So we must not give up our responsibilities. Think with me how an opposition can emerge really in the interest of Egypt and of expressing a counteropinion, not casting doubt or abuse or trying to exploit certain conditions or circumstances of the people to serve selfish interests and grudges and undermine the country's unity. In whose interest is all this? You must think about this with me.

I have thus given you a complete picture of past events. In brief, we must always keep moving, with God's help, in politics, in domestic construction, in democracy and in everything.

I am happy that the main base of our people and you as well really fill me with pride. I was proud when I was addressing the European Parliament and when they were applauding because the applause was for Egypt. They applauded when I told them that I had come from a village in Egypt. [applause] The village considers that ethics are indivisible and that it is wrong to say that there is no morality in politics. In our village, we were taught that ethics are indivisible. They all applauded in admiration and astonishment for Egypt. I am proud of our country, of our people and of you all.

I ask you to increase the tempo of motion a little bit in all fields--in politics, in construction, and in democracy.

As I have told you I put to you a big problem and I want you, journalists, to convey this. I say that we have a problem--the problem of the opposition and counteropinion--that has not been solved. The present state [of the opposition] is not in the interest of Egypt and is not what the National Democratic Party wants as sound democratic practice for our future generations. Look at it as a problem.

AS-SADAT CABLE LAUDS WORKERS FOR AFGHAN SUPPORT

NC231626 Cairo MENA In Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has reaffirmed his confidence in the Egyptian workers, that they will spare no efforts to realize the hopes of our immortal Egypt, to raise its head, and to grant it their sweat and sacrifices until our noble aims of providing happiness for our people and elevating them to the highest positions of dignity, comfortable living, well-being and prosperity are realized.

This came in a message addressed by the president to the chairman of the General Federation of the Labor Unions, Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, that was circulated today at the conference of the general federation's general assembly. The following is the text of the cable:

Mr Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the General Labor Federation in the Arab Republic of Egypt: Best greetings. I received with much gratitude the letter you sent to me on behalf of the Federation conveying the honest Egyptian workers' support for the struggle of the Afghani mujahidin, their denunciation of the treacherous Soviet aggression against Afghanistan and their determination to support this struggle materially and morally.

I warmly greet my sons and brothers the workers on their noble attitude and sincere feelings they expressed in responding to our appeal. What pleased me was their initiative in donating 30,000 Egyptian pounds. This praiseworthy gesture sincerely proves that Arab fraternity is indeed represented in Egypt, the heart of Arabism, and that Egypt does not spare any efforts to extend aid and help and always strongly supports all our Arab brothers in times of affliction and difficulties. Egypt has now risen to support the Muslim Afghan brothers in their fierce war and heroic struggle to check the Soviet invasion of their country, to liberate their land from the usurping enemy and to safeguard their independence.

We invoke God to defeat the tyrants, to strengthen Islam, to raise high the flag of the Muslims, to support our struggling Afghani brothers and to crown their bitter struggle with victory against the enemies of religion.

I express my sincerest heartfelt gratitude to you and to the members of the Federation's board of directors for this sincere feeling, which expresses Egypt's nobility. I wish to convey to you my pride and appreciation to the workers of Egypt, of whom I am proud. I have no doubt that they will spare no effort to realize the aims of our immortal Egypt, to raise Egypt's head and to grant it their sweat and sacrifice until our noble aims of providing happiness for our people and elevating them to the highest positions of dignity, comfortable living, well-being and prosperity are realized.

With my best wishes for your health, happiness and success is serving our dear homeland.

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH NATIONAL LEADERS 22 FEB

NC221809 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met before noon today with Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Peoples Assembly Speaker Sufi abu-Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, the deputy prime ministers and the minister of state for the presidency, education and information, Mansur Hasan. After the meeting, which was held at the president's resthouse in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah, Mr Mansur Hasan said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali reviewed foreign affairs at the meeting.

To a question concerning current consultations between Egypt and the United States with regard to President as-Sadat's visit to the United States, Mr Mansur Hasan replied that U.S.-Egyptian consultations have been going on since President Reagan's assumption of the U.S. presidency. He added that from the beginning it became abundantly clear that the two countries have, by and large, similar points of view. This became clear even before President as-Sadat made his trip to Europe to hold talks there. He added that the negotiations for setting up a date for the president's visit to the United States are not over yet and that the visit is expected to take place after next March.

Mr Mansur Hasan said the president had expounded on two important subjects, namely the food security companies and the National Democratic Party's cadres.

More on Meeting

NC221930 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Minister of State for the Presidency, Culture and Information Mansur Hasan has stated that the meeting which President as-Sadat held today with the political, executive and popular leaders comes within the framework of the periodic meetings which the president holds with the deputy prime ministers and leaders of the legislative institutions to follow up the progress of the national action in the legislative and executive organs.

Mansur Hasan added that the deputy prime ministers presented brief reports on the followup of the various projects, each within his own sector. He also said that President as-Sadat concentrated at this meeting on two specific aims connected with the organizational structure of the National Democratic Party and the preparation of the party's cadres and leaders, starting with the broad popular base of the party, and with the followup of the establishment of the food security companies in all provinces, which has become the responsibility of the governors, each in his own governorate. These companies will market the food supplies and ensure that they reach the consumer at suitable prices. President as-Sadat has fixed 15 May, God willing, as the final date for the establishment of these companies in the republic's governorates.

The meeting, Mansur Hasan went on, also discussed the various economic legislative bills, numbering 19 bills. The president directed that it is necessary to complete these bills quickly to present them to the People's Assembly for discussion and approval.

Concerning foreign policy, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister presented a brief report on the external situation.

COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT ATTACKS AS-SADAT 'PLOT'

JN231327 (Clandestine) Voice of Egyptian People in Arabic to Egypt 1945 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Egyptian Communist Party statement dated Cairo, 14 January 81]

[Text] The Egyptian Communist Party would like to draw the attention of friends and allies in Egypt and the Arab homeland to the new plot being implemented by the puppet As-Sadat regime to use the so-called Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee to break the siege surrounding that regime so that it can resume its contact with the Arab world. Cooperation with the committee would imply lifting the siege on the Camp David accords, the Washington treaty and U.S. plans in the region.

While appreciating AAPSO's significant struggle against imperialism and its agents and plans, such as the Camp David accords and U.S. military bases and presence, the party would like to warn that by using some of its collaborators, the Egyptian regime hopes to exploit the struggle of this world organization and to present the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee as an alternative to the growing Egyptian National Movement. It hopes to exploit the committee's activities in order to break the choking siege on that puppet regime [words indistinct].

The structure of the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee is also significant. It is headed by Sayyid Mar'i, an adviser to As-Sadat and a feudalist who is known for his role in the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and for planning As-Sadat's strategy. [Words indistinct] contains several Egyptian figures who have cooperated at different stages of the As-Sadat regime, whether by participating in the government or in the May 1971 coup [which brought about the overthrow of pro-Moscow elements in the As-Sadat administration, led by 'Ali Sabri] or in the attempt [words indistinct] calling for the maintenance of relations with the As-Sadat regime despite the signing of the Camp David accords.

'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sharqawi, who led the delegation of the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee to Lebanon, is a member of As-Sadat's advisory council and one of the main supporters of the May 1971 movement. The other members of the delegation were either deceived or misguided about the mission to Beirut. We are certain that they will reconsider their positions after realizing the dimensions of the conspiracy.

One clear fact is that the delegation's mission and membership were approved in advance by As-Sadat. The Egyptian regime also sanctioned 250,000 Egyptian pounds and thousands of dollars to finance the delegation's activities.

At a time when the Egyptian national forces are intensifying their struggle against the traitorious As-Sadat regime and direct U.S. threats and are concentrating on closing their ranks, broadening the opposition front and developing their struggle methods, a handful of elements are actively trying to split the national ranks at home and to increase their activities abroad in order to misrepresent facts about Egypt and to pose as the alternative to the national movement. These elements only represent themselves. [words indistinct]

The establishment of relations with Egyptian popular organizations is essential as long as such relations are established directly with the organizations themselves. It is only through such organizations that we will know the facts about the political situation in Egypt and the true position of the opposition forces on the domestic and pan-Arab levels.

The Egyptian Communist Party calls on all friendly organizations, parties and regimes to bear this in mind for the sake of safeguarding the struggle of the Egyptian National Movement and its unity. The party would like to point out that the activities which the Egyptian Government is trying to conduct through leftist and solidarity organizations reflect the crisis within that government due to its increasingly isolated position. They also prove that the true representatives of the Egyptian national forces are achieving progress in their struggle following the conference of the National Unionist Progressive Party, which has pledged to remain steadfast against suppression and divisive attempts, and the advanced formula presented by the Egyptian Communist Party conference calling for effective joint action by the representatives of the different national groups.

Our party program asserts that there will be no room in the national forces front for the representatives of the government. Our program rejects [words indistinct] any alliance or cooperation with the existing government or any part thereof. The aim of our struggle, which converges with the struggle of all national progressive forces- is to tighten the noose around the regime so as to isolate it at home and in the Arab world, [words indistinct] the figureheads of the regime and mobilize the people for its overthrow.

Thus, we call upon our allies [words indistinct] to fight all attempts at ending the isolation of the As-Sadat regime and to listen only to the true representatives of the Egyptian national movement.

[Signed] The Egyptian Communist Party
Cairo, 14 January 1981

BRIEFS

NEW PUBLICATION--Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)--The first edition of the newspaper MAYU [MAY] will be issued on 2 March. The paper will first begin as a weekly and eventually become a daily publication. President as-Sadat will lay the cornerstone of the paper's new building in the 6 October City on 2 March. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT 16 Feb 81 NC]

ROMANIA'S CORNEL BURTICA BEGINS 4-DAY VISIT

Arrival Report

JN210813 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)--A Romanian delegation led by Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, arrived in Baghdad last night for a 4-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA Burtica said that he will convey a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The message deals with bilateral relations and the current international situation. He said that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on boosting and developing bilateral cooperation. He pointed out that his visit is also aimed at bolstering friendship and cooperation between the two friendly peoples, adding that relations between Iraq and Romania are strong and built on mutual respect.

Meeting With Officials

JN211712 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)--Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, began his contacts today with Iraqi officials with a view to developing bilateral cooperation. He met with Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, and with Muhammad Fadil, minister of public works and housing. During the two meetings the two sides discussed bilateral friendship and cooperation relations in the economic, trade and technical fields and Romanian institutions' participation in implementing housing and road projects in Iraq. Burtica arrived here this morning at the head of a delegation on an official visit of several days to Iraq.

Oil Minister Meeting

JN220918 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, met here today with Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, who is currently visiting Iraq. The ministers reviewed bilateral relations, particularly in the oil industry, and means to develop them. They also discussed cooperation between oil companies to serve their mutual interests.

Defense Minister Meeting

JN221328 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy prime minister and defense minister received here this morning Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, and his delegation. They discussed military relations between the two friendly countries and means to develop them. The Iraqi minister expressed his pleasure at meeting with the Romanian minister and his delegation and his appreciation of the role played by Romania to improve relations between the two countries. He also praised Romania's positive stand on Arab issues. The Romanian minister expressed his country's readiness to develop and deepen relations of cooperation and friendship with the Iraqi Armed Forces to serve their mutual interests.

Ceausescu Message Delivery

JN221628 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, has received a written message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu dealing with bilateral relations and the current international situation. The message was conveyed to the president by Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, when he was received by the president this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and minister of trade; Qays al-Mukhtar, chief of protocol in the president's office; and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Ramadan Meeting

JN221917 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here this evening with Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, and his delegation. The discussion dealt with cooperative relations and ways to promote them and with projects being implemented by Romania in Iraq, in accordance with the cooperation agreement signed between the two sides during Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to Romania in September.

Meeting With Other Officials

JN231412 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)--Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, held a series of meetings today with the minister of industry and minerals, the minister of planning and the chief of the economic affairs office in the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

During Burtica's separate meetings with Hikmat Ibrahim, RCC member and chief of the economic affairs office in the RCC; Tahir Tawfiq, RCC member and minister of industry and minerals; and Dr Taha Ibrahim al-'Abdallah, planning minister, Iraqi-Romanian relations and the promotion of economic cooperation were reviewed.

The Romanian minister informed the Iraqi officials of his country's wish to strengthen cooperation with Iraq in the fields of trade, industry, exchange of expertise and implementation of development projects in Iraq. The meetings were attended by the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad and several Iraqi officials.

FOREIGN MINISTER CHAIRS MEETING OF DIPLOMATS

JN211530 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi presided over the meeting of the fifth annual conference of heads of Iraqi political and consulate missions in Asian, African and Latin American states here today. A review was made of the dimensions of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and the extensive activities carried out by our embassies abroad for the sake of explaining the just Iraqi stand that is based on documents proving our national right to our lands and waters and exposing the Persian regime's expansionist aggressive trend and frenzied attempts to distort Islam. A review was also made of the international efforts to settle the dispute and of Iraq's positive stand in this respect, in comparison with the Persian enemy's negative intransigent stand.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry's under secretaries, the foreign minister's advisers and the ministry's heads and directors of departments. This conference is the third of its kind for the heads of Iraqi diplomatic missions abroad. The first conference was held for Iraqi ambassadors in the Arab countries and the second for Iraqi ambassadors in Europe and North America.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES SAUDI DEPUTY PREMIER

JN212118 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received here this evening Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and national guard commander. Prince 'Abdallah is currently visiting Iraq by private invitation.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 256

JN231651 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)--The valiant Iraqi forces killed 85 of the racist Persian enemy in their operational sectors last night and today. Communique No 256 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that the Iraqi units destroyed two enemy tanks, one armored personnel carrier, six vehicles, one missile launcher, and two observation posts. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 256 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. A force of enemy personnel tried to approach our units' positions in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin. It was engaged with various weapons and forced to withdraw after sustaining 24 killed.
B. Our units engaged an enemy troop concentration in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, killing nine and destroying one observation post.
C. Four dead in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. Two were killed and one tank and one tube launcher were destroyed in front of our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our units' positions in the Mehran region. It was engaged with artillery and mortars and forced to withdraw after sustaining 15 killed and 1 observation post destroyed.
F. Nine were killed and one armored personnel carrier and two vehicles were destroyed in the Dezful region.
G. One tank was destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
H. Four were killed and one vehicle and one missile launcher were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
I. One of our combat patrols raided enemy positions in the Abadan region, killing 18 and destroying 3 infantry positions and 3 vehicles.
J. Our planes today attacked the Iranian (?mask) camp in the region opposite Panjwin and scored direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 85 dead and 2 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 6 vehicles, 1 missile launcher, 2 observation posts, 1 tube launcher, and 3 infantry positions destroyed.

II. It has been ascertained that, in addition to what was announced on 19 February 1981, the enemy sustained the following losses in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin: 44 dead and 2 guns and 1 vehicle destroyed.

III. Our losses:

A. Personnel: Four martyrs in all sectors.
B. Equipment: One personnel carrier damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 February 1981

BAGHDAD CLAIMS KHOMEYNI 'LIVING IN FINAL DAYS'

GF231049 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Khomeyni, who is responsible for the fighting between the peoples of Iraq and Iran, is now facing defeat both inside and outside Iran. Despite this, he continues his owlish talk about prolonging the war. Has he failed to realize that this war is shedding the blood of the brave sons of the Iranian people?

It seems that the grief created by the murderer Khalkhali, who is known for his executions, has failed to quench Khomeyni's lust for blood. While he claims to champion Islam, he is destroying the homes of the Muslim Iraqi people. He believes he will succeed in suppressing the brave Iraqi people by extending his savage and rapacious policies to Iraq. However, both the Iraqi people and the rest of the world have realized the true identity of the Khomeyni regime. This is why Khomeyni has been publicly disgraced in the Islamic world.

Ignorant of the complicated international political and military situation, Khomeyni continues killing innocent people and ordering the brave sons of the Iranian peoples to their deaths for the sake of maintaining his regime. Khomeyni, who is living through his last few days, does not realize that the war is being waged with modern arms and strategy and not with swords.

It will be recalled that the Muslim peoples of Iran and Iraq lived peacefully as brothers and friends for centuries. However, with its aspiration to usurp Iraq's rights over the Shatt al-'Arab, Khomeyni's regime has tried to disrupt the historical and fraternal ties between the two countries.

Iraq respects international agreements. Nevertheless, in order to teach the aggressors a lesson, it will not hesitate to pluck out the eye of any regime--like the aggressive and adventurous Khomeyni administration--that covets Iraqi soil. Khomeyni, who has destroyed Iran and its people, now intends to bring the same disaster to the Muslim Iraqi people. Iraq never has and never will resort to the base actions of the criminal Khomeyni regime. The Iranian peoples may rest assured on this matter and should (?lay down) their arms without heeding the futile [words indistinct] of the Khomeyni administration.

The Iranian people must realize that this war is not against them. They must also realize that Iraqi planes have never bombed their homes. On the contrary, the Khomeyni administration has destroyed the towns and villages of Iranian Kordestan with napalm and has blamed revolutionary Iraq for this fascist policy. However, the brave Kurdish people know that such actions are characteristic of the Khomeyni administration that claims to wear the crown of Islam on its head.

This administration is confused because of the defeats it has suffered on the battlefront. It wants to destroy the people with a mere glance. However, the Iranian people are aware of the facts and know that Khomeyni and the members of his clique are living through their last few days. In the near future, we shall see them dumped in the garbage pit of history along with their hellish policies.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON KIDNAPPING OF CHARGE

GF220657 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 20 Feb 81 pp 1, 18

[Report on exclusive interview granted by Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim to AL-JAZIRAH correspondent 'Abd ar-Rahman Idris--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim pointed out that the kidnapping of the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut falls under the category of international terrorism and that Jordan was among the first countries to take a defined stand on international terrorism. The recent attack against the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut and the kidnapping of the Jordanian charge d'affaires by a terrorist group falls under this category. Terrorism increases tension--not only in the Arab world--but in the whole world. The day before yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn discussed the kidnapping, the Syrian buildup on Jordan's borders and the possibility that the reason behind the kidnapping was Syria's opposition to Jordan's aid to Iraq. His majesty reiterated Jordan's support for fraternal Iraq.

The foreign minister reiterated in his interview that Jordan's stand toward the Iranian-Iraqi dispute did not spring from any hotheadedness on one side toward the other but that it sprang from the principles and bases that Jordan believes in and uses in its dealings with other countries. The minister reaffirmed that no country should interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab or non-Arab country and that this interference has been one of the main causes of the fighting between the two countries.

JUSTICE MINISTER LEAVES FOR SAN'A' CONFERENCE

JN212006 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim at-Tarawinah left Amman for San'a' tonight leading Jordan's delegation to the second conference of the Arab justice ministers, which is due to open in San'a' on Monday.

INDUSTRY MINISTER LEAVES FOR ECONOMIC MEETING

JN221543 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Amman, 22 Feb (PETRA)--Industry and Trade Minister Walid 'Asfur left Amman for Tunis today heading a Jordanian delegation to the 30th ordinary session of the Arab Social and Economic Council to be held in Tunis tomorrow. The session will last 5 days.

PAPERS COMMENT ON BREZHNEV'S MIDEAST PROPOSALS

JN240930 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Press review]

[Text] Today's Jordanian papers devote their editorials to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's proposals for a Middle East settlement.

Under the headline "An Initiative Worthy of Consideration," AD-DUSTUR says: The Middle East peace initiative proposed by President Brezhnev yesterday calling for the convocation of an international conference with the participation of all the parties to the dispute in the region as well as peace-loving forces, comes in the wake of the repeated failure of all efforts which have been exerted so far to end the Arab-Zionist dispute. We are convinced that this initiative has not only come at the right time and in the fight form, but is also in line with the Arab position, which calls for a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

The initiative, which calls for an international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned as well as the United Nations and the peace-loving forces, conforms with the idea of convening an expanded conference to seek a comprehensive settlement and to discount separate and partial settlements such as the Camp David accords and the separate peace treaty, which have proved a failure.

This initiative also conforms with the declared Arab stand under the Baghdad, Tunis and Amman summit resolutions and with the Islamic stand declared at the At-Ta'if summit, calling for complete Israel withdrawal, the return of Arab Jerusalem and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination on their occupied land.

The initiative also conforms with the UN resolutions that assert Palestinian rights and the need for a comprehensive settlement in the region, guaranteeing security for all parties. In many of its provisions, the Soviet initiative also agrees with the European impressions at the Venice summit, especially with regard to seeking a comprehensive settlement, acknowledging the Palestinians' right to self-determination and guaranteeing security for the states and peoples of the region. Furthermore, the Soviet initiative agrees with the resolutions adopted by the Nonaligned Movement and other international organizations which repudiate the logic of invasion and aggression and treat all peoples as equals in enjoying peace, security and mutual interests.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Therefore the Soviet initiative is worthy of serious consideration, necessary attention and positive response because it contains several positive practical elements which concern all parties and peace-loving forces and which constitute the basis for positive action in the right direction.

Under the headline "The Soviet and European Moves," AR-RA'Y says: Through its leader Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet Union has presented its idea of how to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue. In his speech yesterday Brezhnev called for an international conference to be attended by the United States, the United Nations and all the parties concerned, including the PLO and Israel, to end the present deadlock and seek a settlement of the issue on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise all their rights, including their right to set up their state on their land.

The Soviet idea is undoubtedly a consequential move that deserves consideration on the Arab level in order to coordinate Arab stands on it. Arab interest in the European move, which is now in th process of crystallizing a joint European initiative, should not result in overlooking the Soviet move. Conversely, interest in the Soviet move should not mean discounting the European move. It is essential that a common ground be found so that we can benefit from both moves.

Concluding, AR-RA'Y says: Needless to say, aborting or freezing the European move will not be in the interest of the Arab cause. However, allowing too much time to the European move is also not in the interest of the cause, especially when we know that Israel is exploiting every second to entrench its occupation and settlement activities in the occupied territory. Therefore, it is extremely important that the European states be urged to expedite their initiative in order to enable us to determine its suitability as a basis for a just and comprehensive settlement and how we can benefit from both the European and Soviet moves. The United States must also be urged to cooperate with the international community to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement now that Brezhnev has declared Moscow's readiness to cooperate with the Europeans in seeking the desired solution.

AL-WAZZAN DENOUNCES LATEST ISRAELI AGGRESSION

NC231300 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli attack early this morning, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said: It is a new link in the series of attacks that Israel planned and is continuing to carry out despite the condemnation by us and the world of Israel's actions.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: Of course, this is no longer sufficient, since denunciation does not liberate a land or stop an aggression. Everyone, as we have said in Arab conference and the recent At-Ta'if conference, is called upon to take part in putting an end to these aggressions through a common Arab strategy. The south is standing fast today on behalf of all the Arabs, not just Lebanon.

SYRIAN TANKS REPORTED ASSEMBLING NEAR JUN

NC231310 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Information received by us indicates that some 65 T-62 tanks belonging to the Syrians have assembled near Jun in an area called (Bustan al-Mutran).

Moreover, armed Fatah elements have been seen guarding the tanks.

GREEK RELIGIOUS LEADER ESCAPES ASSASSINATION

LD191058 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 19 Feb 81

[Text] Beirut, 19 Feb (KUNA)--The Greek Catholic patriarch, Maximos the Fifth Hakim, escaped Thursday an assassination attempt with minor wounds in the face when unidentified gunmen opened fire at his car near the summer resort of Bhamdoun, police reported.

The terse report said the patriarch was admitted first to a clinic operated by doctors of the Syrian peacekeeping force in Bhamdoun, 22 kilometers east of Beirut, and then moved to the Rizq Hospital in Beirut's Christian sector.

A hospital official, who refused to be identified, told KUNA by telephone the patriarch's condition was "satisfactory."

The report was also broadcast by the state radio which said the patriarch's motorcade was ambushed near restaurant "Al Mataam" two kilometers west of Bhamdoun on the main Beirut-Damascus highway.

A highly-placed security source said Syrian peacekeeping soldiers "sealed off the area and launched a search campaign for the gunmen who sped away in a car believed to be either a Mercedes or an Audi-10".

Patriarch Hakim is spiritual leader of the Melchite Catholic Christian community in the Middle East. He is based in the Syrian capital of Damascus. His official title is "patriarch of Antioch and all the east."

Further details were not immediately available.

FRENCH EMBASSY GUARDS EXCHANGE FIRE WITH ARMED MEN

NC212216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Security sources have said that the French Embassy guards exchanged fire tonight with armed men who were in passing car and that there were no casualties. The exchange of fire occurred when the armed men refused to stop after being requested to do so by the embassy guards who were suspicious of them.

The sources added that the armed men escaped after the incident.

DEFENSE MINISTER SKAF LEAVES FOR AUSTRIA 20 FEB

NC201227 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Excerpt] This morning Defense Minister Joseph Skaf left Beirut for Austria at the official invitation of his Austrian counterpart. During the visit Minister Skaf will meet with a number of high-ranking Austrian officials foremost of whom will be Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Minister Skaf was seen off at the airport by the Austrian ambassador in Lebanon and a number of high-ranking officers, foremost of whom was air force commander Col Fahim al-Haj on behalf of the army commander.

VOL: PALESTINIANS SUGGEST 'ARAFAT BE RELIEVED

NC201330 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Following the open conflict which occurred during the recent meeting of the Palestine National Council in Damascus over Yasir 'Arafat's insistence on maintaining the dialogue with Jordan, reports received by the Voice of Lebanon say that representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]--Habash wing--the As-Sa'iqah organization, the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP]--Hawatimah wing--and the Popular Front--the General Command of Ahmad Jibril--proposed that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat be relieved of his post.

PRESIDENT SENDS GREETINGS TO BREZHNEV ON CONGRESS

JN231456 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 81

["Text" of message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev on the occasion of the opening of the 26th CPSU Congress--no date given]

[Text] Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU general secretary, the convocation of the 26th CPSU Congress is an important occasion. I have the pleasure of seizing this occasion to send, in my name and on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Command, the sincerest greetings of comradeship and struggle to you and to the comrade members of the congress.

I would like to express our confidence that the 26th congress will achieve the aspired-for success in bolstering the Soviet Union's continuous progressive course in domestic and foreign policies alike.

We highly appreciate the Soviet Union's duties and role as the first state to build socialism and as a vanguard country supporting and backing the peoples' struggle against colonialism, imperialism and all their allies, particularly Zionism, reaction and racism.

We would also like to express our thanks and appreciation for your firm and principled stand, which is based on the decisions of your party's 25th congress; namely, to bolster the Arab nation's struggle against the U.S.-backed Israeli aggression, liberate the occupied Arab territories and return the usurped Arab rights.

We are happy that the 26th CPSU Congress is being convened at a time when the ties of friendship and cooperation have been bolstered between the CPSU and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, between our two peoples and governments. Indeed, these ties entered a distinctive stage with the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty between us in Moscow on 8 October 1980 and the exchange of this treaty's instruments of ratification in Damascus on 2 December 1980. The strong ties linking Syria and the Soviet Union have always proved their usefulness and effectiveness. These ties are for the mutual interest of our two peoples and have proved to be effective in bolstering our joint struggle against the powers of aggression, exploitation and oppression in the world.

The CPSU 26th Congress has special significance, since it is being convened at a time when an atmosphere of tension prevails, an atmosphere which imperialism and its allies are trying to create in the world through fabricating and escalating crises and threatening the peoples' freedom and independence, the unity of their territories and their national resources with the establishment of military bases and concentrations of military forces for the purpose of threats and aggression and returning the world to the atmosphere of the cold war.

We would like to express confidence that such aggressive trends will fail, as a result of the peoples' adherence to the policy of international detente, defense of the principles of peaceful coexistence and struggle to achieve a just peace, in order to stop the arms race and establish a new economic world system that is based on the principle of compatibility.

We are confident that in its capacity as the leading and guiding power of the Soviet society and through the deliberations and decisions of its 26th congress, the CPSU will bolster the course of continuous progress by achieving further economic, scientific, cultural and social successes in the field of domestic policy, and by bolstering alliances with the socialist states, achieving solidarity with the national liberation movement and affirming the principle of peaceful coexistence in the field of foreign policy.

Again, we send our greetings and best wishes to you and the comrade members of the congress and peoples of the friendly Soviet Union.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE CABLES BREZHNEV

JN232047 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] The Arab People's Conference Permanent Secretariat has sent a cable to Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU general secretary, and the members of the CPSU's 26th Congress. The secretariat referred to the strategic alliance between the Arab nation and the people of the socialist bloc and its leader the USSR.

In its cable the secretariat said that imperialist U.S. bullying in the Arab region and the Middle East and the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracy are bound to be met with a stand by the Moscow congress out of the conviction that the freedom of the people and the struggle for their sake are a joint international responsibility.

The cable pointed out that the Arab liberation movement, within the framework of the Arab People's Conference, had previously declared its support for the Soviet initiative, voiced by Brezhnev, declaring the Indian Ocean, the Arab Sea, the Peninsula and the Gulf a zone of peace, free of fleets and foreign arms.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference wished the CPSU Congress success, prosperity for the friendly Soviet people and victory for the people's struggle against the forces of imperialism, Zionism, reaction and racism.

BA'TH PARTY'S AL-QADI INTERVIEWED IN BUDAPEST

AU231738 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 21 Feb 81 p 3

[Bela C. Toth article: "We Speak the Same Language; Statement by 'Isam al-Qadi, Representative of the Syrian Ba'th Party"]

[Text] At the invitation of the MSZMP Central Committee, 'Isam al-Qadi, member of the National Command of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, is visiting our country leading a delegation. He made a statement to a member of our staff about his country's domestic and foreign policy.

[Question] Comrade al-Qadi, how would you characterize Syria's present domestic political position?

[Answer] Struggling against U.S. imperialism and Israeli aggression imposes great burdens on our country. We must spend over 70 percent of our gross national product on the armed forces. In spite of this, we are undergoing a great industrial upswing; I might say an industrial revolution. For example, barely 10 percent of the country had electricity before 1963; that is, prior to the victory of the revolution. Even the smallest villages have electricity today.

[Question] What difficulties do you have to overcome?

[Answer] I would mention first that recently, at U.S. and Israeli encouragement, internal reactionary forces swung into action and intended, through outrages, to make the population uncertain. They murdered Ba'th party leaders, communists and socialists. Darvis az-Zuni, a prominent socialist leader, was one of their latest victims. We have liquidated organized gangs since then, but sporadic reactionary counterrevolutionary acts must be expected in future. To struggle against reaction, the parties belonging to the progressive front of national union accord their members training in firearms.

[Question] What do you regard as Syria's main tasks?

[Answer] Developing the country's defense forces and continuing industrialization. In the old days one understood the peasantry and the employees of small workshops as the working people in Syria.

An increasingly stronger worker class is on the ascendancy today. We need well-educated workers; therefore, the development of education is being emphasized. Education, including university education, is tuition free in Syria. In addition to a large number of elementary, secondary and vocational schools, we have established new universities. In addition to the Damascus University, three other institutions of higher education--in Aleppo, Latakia and Homs--are training leading industrial personnel indispensable for industry. Oil-rich Arab countries even try to entice our well-trained specialists, technicians and engineers away, which we counteract by fostering political awareness in our citizens.

[Question] Can Syria's domestic development be regarded as undisturbed?

[Answer] Unfortunately, it cannot. Our country is subject to constant Israeli and U.S. provocations. However, we are not alone. The Soviet Union, the socialist countries--including Hungary--are on our side, for which we are very grateful. We can rely on the Steadfastness Front established from the progressive Arab regimes.

[Question] How do you assess the Palestinian issue?

[Answer] The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Except the PLO, neither As-Sadat, King Husayn or anyone else is competent to act on behalf of the Palestinian people. That is why we condemn the Camp David agreements, as well as other, so-called plans of settlement. Reagan stated during the election campaign that he regards the PLO as a terrorist organization, and he has been trying to thrust Jordan to the fore recently. However, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad precisely explained a few days ago that the Israelis are keeping Syrian and Palestinian, not Jordanian, territories under occupation. Therefore, if Jordan signs some "plan of settlment," that will be void and remains a piece of worthless paper.

[Question] Could you say something about the position of Palestinians living in Syria?

[Answer] With your permission, I would note my own example. I am a Palestinian myself; my family was driven away in 1948. I enjoy equal rights with Syrian citizens in Syria, but I would like to stress that I am not a Syrian citizen. My citizenship and that of the rest of my compatriots is Palestinian. We have found a home in Syria, but remain Palestinians, and we are convinced that we will return to our fatherland.

[Question] What were your impressions in Hungary?

[Answer] This is my fourth visit here and I like Budapest and the Hungarian people. At our talks, not a word was said with which I could not agree. We concluded a cooperation agreement between the MSZMP and the Ba'th Party that provides a good basis for cooperation between the two parties and peoples. I view with pleasure the development of our relations, and I can say: We speak the same language.

NETHERLANDS' VAN DER KLAAUW VISITS 21-23 FEB

Arrival Report

JN212017 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and current chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, arrived in Damascus this evening on a 2-day visit to Syria, during which he will hold talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

22 Feb Talks

JN221527 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Official talks began today between the Syrian side, led by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Netherlands side, led by Mr van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and president of the EC Council of Ministers. The discussions were attended on the Syrian side by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur; and Rafiq Juwayjati, head of the West European Department at the Foreign Ministry. The discussions were attended on the Netherlands side by members of the delegation accompanying Mr Van der Klaauw.

Khaddam received Van der Klaauw before the discussions began. They discussed bilateral relations.

Al-Asad Reception, Departure

JN231355 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and president of the EC Council of Ministers, and his delegation at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister.

Discussion centered on the Middle East situation and Mr van der Klaauw's mission, in his capacity as president of the EC Council of Ministers, with regard to the Arab-Israeli dispute and the issue of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The president stated that, since 1973, Syria has stressed the importance of Europe playing a role in the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He added that we definitely appreciate the European group's efforts to achieve peace in the region. He said: It is good that the European group discussed the dimensions of the problem. However, the independence of the European role is a condition for the success of such a role. When we stress such independence we proceed from the premise of concern over the success of the European role. Thus, the farther the European action is removed from other initiatives--if they can be called initiatives, considering they are unjust--the more opportunities there are for the success of such action. The president stated that now, three years after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, the situation has become worse and more complicated rather than the opposite.

Van der Klaauw affirmed that the European group's states are taking a new approach in their initiative, adding that these states adopt their decisions on their own. He stated that his talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam were satisfactory.

[Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 1615 GMT on 23 February adds: Van der Klaauw left Damascus this afternoon.]

AL-ASAD MESSAGES TO LIBYAN, ALGERIAN PRESIDENTS

JN231728 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, left Damascus for Libya and Algeria today to deliver messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to the Libyan and the Algerian presidents. A Syrian news agency correspondent has learned that the two messages deal with the current Arab situation.

DAMASCUS PRAISES JORDANIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT

JN181426 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Feb 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The meeting held yesterday between President Hafiz al-Asad and the Jordanian popular delegation comprising several nationalist figures is no mere transient or ordinary meeting. Rather, this meeting has a lot of significance. It is an event in the true meaning of the word, since what took place during this meeting, what was said after it by the members of the fraternal popular delegation and the circumstances and events preceding it all are tantamount to dotting the i's. In other words, it is a general popular Jordanian announcement on the stands of our sons and brothers in Jordan in regard to the dispute between the Syrian leadership and the masses on the one hand, and the Jordanian regime and the practices of this regime's government, which is led by Mudar Badran, who is steeped in agentry and treason, on the other.

The best expression of this announcement and stand was the president's statement to the delegation's members: We view the Jordanian citizen the way we view the Syrian citizen; we greatly admire and respect the successive pan-Arab stands of struggle adopted by our Arab Jordanian people.

This statement not only represents the true convictions of our country's people and leadership, it also represents the incentive that led the delegation's members to visit Damascas and meet with President al-Asad, thus challenging what has been and is being said against Syria and affirming that our heroic Jordanian people, with all their national sectors, will neither be taken in by tendentious rumors nor heed threats. Rather, these people remain firmly convinced that Syria represents the Arab nation's conscience. They are firmly convinced that all that Syria has been subjected to is only due to its political course, princ'pled pan-Arab stand and adherence to defending pan-Arab issues, as the president pointed out. Thus, it is now clear that the masses of our people in Jordan are rallying around Syria in its pan-Arab battles and confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist plot against our Arab nation and its issue and all the ramifications, deluding tools of and alternatives posed by this plot.

It is now clearer that our Arab people in heroic Jordan support Syria in its confrontation of the campaigns of pressure whose purpose is to force Syria to relinquish and retract its pan-Arab stand, which has always stood as an obstacle to the spread of the capitulation and subjugation schemes, and that these people support Syria in its confrontation of the crimes perpetrated by the Muslim Brotherhood gangs, which were adopted by the Jordanian regime. Indeed, Badran himself undertook to care for these gangs.

One of the delegation's members candidly announced this truth when he stated that the colonialist, imperialist and Zionist plots center on the national leadership in Syria in order to peddle the U.S.-Israeli plot aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue. It is the duty of all the world's nationalist, progressive and liberal elements to bolster the Syrian rule since it represents the invulnerable barrier to the implementation of the imperialist and Zionist scheme in the Arab region. The voice of the Jordanian people has been heard, the voice of the national, conscientious and steadfast masses, who are the farces and falsities, the voice of support for revolutionary Syria, which remains steadfast in its confrontation of all agents, no matter the groups to which these agents might belong.

The Jordanian regime's activities impeded the march of relations between the two fraternal states--Syria and Jordan--from reaching their most ideal level, as desired by the masses. However, our masses in Jordan--as affirmed by statements made by these masses' representatives and members of the delegation which visited Damascus yesterday and met with the president--continue to show and prove that the unity of the one people in Syria and Jordan still exists and is lasting and that no doubts or uncertainties can be cast on such a unity despite all the procedures adopted by the Jordanian regime and the practices of this regime's prime minister. Indeed, our Arab people in our herioc Jordan are innocent of these practices.

ATH-THAWRAH: JORDAN PLOTS AGAINST ARAB STRUGGLE

JN181059 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Feb 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In its column "Voice of ATH-THAWRAH," ATH-THAWRAH carries a commentary entitled "We Are Proud of Our People in Jordan and Their Struggle." The commentary says that in the fateful pan-Arab battle which the Arab nation is leading, the importance of Syria's principled stands, distinctive pan-Arab role and total commitment to the struggle for the liberation of land and the regaining of rights come to the fore. For, as Syria gives priority to the liberation struggle and increases its efforts to provide the conditions for the victory of the Arab right, it thus blocks the opportunities sought by the enemies of the Arab nation--the imperialist and Zionist agents--to dispel the pan-Arab effort and to cause it to be wasted on affairs other than the fateful pan-Arab battle. Through this struggling perspective, Syria has put up with a great deal to build and preserve good relations, always pursuing that which benefits the pan-Arab cause and enhances the fundamental ability for steadfastness and confrontation.

On the other hand, certain quarters, such as the Jordanian regime, go to the extent of slipping into the labyrinths of conspiracy and plotting sabotage campaigns against Arab steadfastness and its basic active and effective forces, foremost of which is Syria. These sabotage campaigns are preludes to the designs of the United States and Israel and seek the liquidation of the central cause of the Arab struggle, the Palestine cause, which our steadfast country considers as the basis cause which no high-handed quarters will be allowed to damage. Nor will they be allowed to relinquish the rights of the people whose cause this is.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: Facts and ample evidence in this phase have proven that the CIA agents in the Jordanian regime are concentrating their activities on sabotaging the fateful, historical relations between the one people in the two countries. These agents are even deeply involved in the acts of conspiracy, sabotage and crime carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood gang against our people and their institutions. Despite our patience and warnings, those involved have continued their activities and become more deeply involved in the conspiracy to pave the way for a role prepared in advance against the pan-Arab cause, its masses and their struggle. They have been paving the way for this role by plotting against the basic force of the Arab struggle--Syria, its party and people.

This is the cause of our disagreement with the Jordanian regime. It is a basic and fundamental disagreement which cannot be overcome except by putting an end to the agent instruments which foment sabotage campaigns and wallow in conspiracies. However, our disagreement with the regime cannot in any way reflect on the fateful, historical relationship which links us with our beloved people in Jordan. As President Hafiz al-Asad has declared, we regard the Jordanian citizen as we do the Syrian citizen. The attempts of the agents to drive a wedge into this relationship and damage it will not succeed, for our people in Jordan, in whose militant stands we take pride, will remain a basic force in the confrontation and struggle to foil the conspiracy and confront its instruments.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: The fateful, historical relationship between the one people in the two countries will remain stronger than the sabotage attempts of the CIA agents in the Jordanian regime. These agents are the enemies of the cause, the Arab struggle and the aspirations of our masses to liberate the land, regain rights and build the future.

LIBYA

AZ-ZUWAYY COMMENTS ON SYRIAN UNITY, SOVIET TREATY

LD221308 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (KUNA)--Libyan Secretary of Justice Muhammad al-Qasim az-Zuwayy said today that his country was not contemplating concluding a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the USSR at present but might do so if it were subjected to what he called foreign dangers threatening its security.

Az-Zuwayy, who arrived here en route to San'a' to attend the Arab ministers of justice conference, told the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's statements in this regard had been misinterpreted. He said that when Al-Qadhdhafi replied to the question about Libya's attitude toward the treaty of friendship and cooperation which Syria signed with the USSR last October, he replied that "circumstances forced Syria to sign such a treaty. We appreciate these circumstances. Should Libya enter similar circumstances it too might be forced to sign a similar treaty with the USSR."

Az-Zuwayy denied that there were any differences between Syria and Libya concerning the merger unity they agreed to set up between them last September. He added that "an important" Syrian-Libyan conference will be held in Damascus early next month to study the progress made by the subcommittee formed by both countries to prepare the unity formula. Az-Zuwayy, however, did not specify whether the meeting will be at the level of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Libyan secretary of justice indirectly denied earlier reports that Libya had stipulated the dissolution of the ruling Ba'th Party in Syria--because it does not recognize party systems--as a prelude and condition for the unity. He said that the "unity between the two countries was not one of conditions or gains by a country, a person, or an organization at the expense of others. It is a unity of fighting for dignity and for checking the Zionist attack against the Arab nation." He added that there are no conditions for unity "and any talk of conditions is false. However, it is natural that there should be a dialogue on the various details of the unity state."

On the Gulf Cooperation Council formed by six Arab Gulf countries, Az-Zuwayy said that Libya believes "that it is the right of the Arab Gulf countries to be responsible for their own security and interests without any foreign hegemony from whatever quarter."

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD LEAVES TRIPOLI FOR YEMEN

LD211356 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, general secretary of the Socialist Party, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, left Tripoli at midday today after a brief visit to the Jamahiriyah. The Yemeni president was seen off at Tripoli international airport by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud. He also was seen off at the airport by the foreign affairs liaison secretary and heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to the Jamahiriyah.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made a statement to JANA. In it he expressed his full satisfaction with the results of his visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He specifically praised the results of his talks with the brother leader of the revolution. He said: The results we have achieved are bound to strengthen solidarity between the Yemeni revolution and the Great September Revolution against colonialist-Zionist and reactionary plans. In his statement he praised the changes in civilization achieved by the people and the historic leadership of the Jamahiriyah.

He added that his talks included discussions on strengthening the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and its continuing challenge to all plans aimed at the Arab nation and its aspirations.

MAURITANIA

COURT SENTENCES OPPOSITION MOVEMENT MEMBERS

LD241010 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] The Special Court of Justice recently concluded its second session held in the town of Rosso, capital of Traza Province. Here are the results of that session:

The special criminal court this morning issued the results of its second session held at Rosso (?16-) 21 February. In a statement to the national press, Lt Col Amadou Dia, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and attorney general at this court, explained that the session studied 24 cases and made 40 judicial decisions.

The court decided to end proceedings against one of the accused because he has since died. The court also decided to free four of the accused, deferred decisions on two cases and acquitted two of the accused. It also handed down 7 sentences of imprisonment [words indistinct], 11 sentences of close confinement, 7 sentences of hard labor for a fixed term, 2 sentences of hard labor for life and 1 sentence of death.

The cases submitted at this session [words indistinct] against members of the so-called Mauritanian Democratic Alliance Movement. Lt Col Amadou Dia explained that the special criminal court studied the charges against 12 members of this movement [words indistinct]. Thus, the court acquitted Mr Ya'qub Ould Daddah because of the lack of necessary legal justification to charge him. The court passed a sentence of 5 years imprisonment on Mohamed (Ishaq), nicknamed (Khal), Ould Mohamed (Wald) for insulting our country and displaying solidarity with the aforementioned movement. The court sentenced Ismail al-Mawlud and Abdallah Ould Sidi (Jad), Ahmed Salim (as-Siqni), (Zing) Abd al-Qadir Murad, Ahmed Ould Maylud, (Fadiyyah) Musa, and Ahmed Abd ar-Rahman (ad-Dumaynah) to 20 years forced labor in accordance with the provisions of Article 84 of the Mauritanian criminal law. The court sentenced Mohamed Ould ash-Shaykh Ould Jiddou and (Murtada) Ould Ubayd ar-Rahman to hard labor for life in accordance with the Article 83 of the criminal law. Finally, the court sentenced to death in absentia Lt (Murtada), nicknamed (Sal), member of the so-called Free Officers Front. This is in accordance with Article 37 of the national army law and Article 67 of the Mauritanian criminal law.

Reviewing the results of the second session of the special criminal court, Lt Col Amadou Dia, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, affirmed that all these sentences were passed in absentia and in accordance with Articles 231, 484, 486 and 497 of the Mauritanian criminal proceedings. It should be remembered that these (?formulations) were (?a text of law) prior to convening this session in Rosso. He said: Our country, which aspires to becoming a land of law and justice, considers it imperative to impose on each citizen who causes chaos and disorder all the penalties appropriate for his deeds. The advocates of civil war in our country and incitement against our national leadership are totally ignorant of the facts of our peaceful people who are mobilized to confront any danger and any attempt to cause division and disunity from whatever quarter. Lt Col Amadou Dia added that the Military Committee for National Salvation and the government will protect the citizens against [words indistinct] because the national leadership will guard them against all futile activities, and hopes this appeal will be heeded. Lt Col Amadou Dia said there is no doubt that the backing and assistance which some neighboring states have been giving to Mauritanians who rebelled against their own country are not secret to anyone. The national leadership, without abandoning its customary self-possession and wisdom, tried to avoid until now all that might aggravate the gravity of this situation.

(?In addition to this, and aware of) of its responsibility, the national leadership took no unjustifiable action against anyone, but it knows how to act with prudent and (?wisdom) to protect national sovereignty and safeguard the higher interests of the country.

Today, now that our country has relinquished (?its claims) [words indistinct] until today this nation still suffers the results of the drought. Lt Col Amadou Dia said at no time did we need unity, security and stability to solve our problems and build our homeland more than today, and we should not become an arena for malicious propaganda aimed at creating a gulf between (?the various sections) of our people [words indistinct] on the one hand and between our country and its neighbors on the other hand.

Finally, Lt Col Amadou Dia, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, talked about the provisions of the legal code on the basis of which the special criminal court handed down its sentences in regard to the cases submitted to it in the course of the special session. In this connection, he explained that Article 37 of the Mauritanian military law calls for the death sentence and the removal of all ranks and military (?privileges) aggainst any soldier serving in the national army or any [words indistinct] who takes up arms against Mauritania.

The first paragraph of Article 67 of the Mauritanian criminal law also confirms that any Mauritanian or any soldier or sailor in the service of Mauritania who takes up arms against Mauritania must be charged with high treason and sentenced to death. As for those sentenced by the court to hard labor for 20 years, this was in accordance with article 84 of the criminal law which says that in every conspiracy that (?aims) to commit the crime specified in Article 83 of the same law, when followed by an act or an activity aimed at paving the way for the commission of the aforementioned crime, the perpetrators of such crime are to be sentenced to hard labor for life. Article 83 of the criminal law says that any attempt to incite citizens either to take up arms against the sovereignty of the state or against (?each other) is punishable with hard labor for life.

TUNISIA

PRESIDENT PARDONS OPPOSITION MOVEMENT MEMBERS

LD191615 Paris LE MONDE in French 15-16 Feb 81 p 3

["M.D." report: "Tunisia--All Members of People's Unity Movement Have Been Amnestied"]

[Text] Tunis--On Friday, 13 February, President Bourguiba granted an amnesty to all members of the People's Unity Movement (MUP) with the exception of former Economy and Finance Minister Ahmed Ben Salah. This measure followed an audience granted by the head of state on the previous day to four MUP leaders (LE MONDE note: the people concerned were Mohamed Bel Hadjamor, Mouni Kachoukh, Jalloul Azzouna and Mohamed Daoud), who had withdrawn their support for Ben Salah some time ago. It applies to 22 people who have already been released and who, as a result, have recovered the civil and political rights of which they were deprived when found guilty of belonging to an illegal organization in August 1977. Among them are not only people who disagree with the former minister's pro-Iraqi views but also people who have remained loyal to him, plus five exiles in Europe who can return to Tunisia (LE MONDE note: The people concerned are Slimane Douggui, Hichem Moussa, Abdelkader Zouari, Abdellatif Ghorbal and Kamel Smari).

Two former close aides of Ben Salah, who were found guilty by the high court in 1970, at the same time--Amor Chechia and Bechir Naji--but have kept aloof from MUP activities ever since they were released from prison, have also been pardoned by the president.

IDF ANNOUNCES MOBILIZATION EXERCISE 23 FEB

TA231329 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] The IDF General Staff announces that a public callup exercise for the mobilization of the reserves begins now. The reserve soldiers and the owners of vehicles and equipment who are stationed in the units whose code names follow will report or make the equipment available to the IDF immediately at the meeting points or directly to their units.

These are the code names of the units being called up for the exercise: Bet Mahase [Shelter], Ben Nekhar [Foreign], Brit 'Olam [Eternal Pact], Holkhey Regel [Pedestrians], Hoze Skirut [Leasing Contract], Hinukh Meshutaf [Integrated Education], Mesibat Re'im [Friends' Party], Ne'ot Midbar [Oases], Pisgat Ha'osher [Peak of Happiness], Shir 'Eres [Lullaby].

The order is singed by Maj Gen Yequiti'el Adam, the deputy chief of staff and chief of the General Staff Operations Branch, in his capacity as mobilization officer according to Military Service Law 5719 [1959 in Gregorian calendar], consolidated version, and in his capacity as mobilization officer according to the emergency regulations--registration and mobilization of equipment of 5717 [1957 in Gregorian calendar] and in view of the IDF exercise taking place now. [Announcement is read twice]

Ends 24 Feb

TA240635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The public reserves callup exercise ended at dawn. Initial conclusions show that the reservists' response was rapid and orderly and during the first hours many of them had already appeared in their units.

OFFICIALS DELIGHTED BY U.S. POLICY ON KFIR

TA241016 Jerusalem POST in English 24 Feb 81 p 1

[By U.S. correspondent Wolf Blitzer]

[Text] Washington--The Reagan administration has approved the sale of Kfir fighters to Ecuador, setting the stage for what U.S. officials here expect will be Israel's first successful overseas sale of the aircraft.

Israel and Ecuador signed a contract for a Kfir sale four years ago, but the Carter administration vetoed it. Because the plane is powered by U.S.-supplied jet engines, Washington can block such sales.

The Reagan administration, however, has informed Israel that it will not stand in the way of most Israeli arms exports, including Kfir sales.

So far, those countries authorized for Kfir purchases--such as Mexico, Taiwan and Austria--have declined to buy. Those countries previously eager to buy Kfirs--such as Ecuador and other Latin American states--had been turned down by Washington.

Now as part of an administration desire to reassure Israel of continued U.S. support, President Ronald Reagan and other senior U.S. officials have indicated that they will be considerably more forthcoming in approving Israeli arms exports.

New York TIMES columnist William Safire yesterday included South Africa on the list of approved countries for Kfir sales. But U.S. officials later insisted that Washington continues to oppose any arms sales to South Africa.

Israeli officials are delighted by the willingness of the new administration to go along with Israeli arms exports. They believe that the exports can go a long way towards improving Israel's economic situation.

The new U.S. stance on Kfir exports is part of the reason why the Begin government appears eager to avoid any dispute with Washington regarding the administration's apparent intention to sell Saudi Arabia advanced offensive accessories for its F-15 fighters.

MINISTERS EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL

TA221348 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Following today's weekly Cabinet session, several ministers expressed their firm opposition to the proposal recently raised by the Egyptian president to establish a Palestinian government-in-exile in Cairo. Political Correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Minister Burg raised the issue at the Cabinet session and that the prime minister briefly reiterated his past statements on the matter that this issue absolutely contradicts the Camp David accords.

The issue of the East Jerusalem Electric Company was not discussed by the Cabinet today. It was decided that the possible purchase of that part of the company authorized by the High Court of Justice would be discussed by a ministerial committee headed by the prime minister.

Following the Cabinet meeting, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said he had not yet decided on the steps he would recommend in the wake of the High Court of Justice ruling. Minister Moda'i confirmed that the chairman of the East Jerusalem Electric Company, Anwar Nussybah, has refrained from meeting with him and has suggested that a lower level of experts meet Moda'i and Energy Ministry officials.

The Cabinet did not discuss today the results of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit in the United States. The prime minister said that detailed reports had not yet arrived from Washington and thus he would not review the talks.

EGYPTIANS READY TO MAINTAIN SINAI AGREEMENTS

TA230950 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 81 p 2

[Text] Yesterday Egypt stated its willingness to adhere to all the limitations included in the peace treaty and the military agreement attached to it, throughout Sinai.

This was reported yesterday at a special meeting of the joint Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee, held in Cairo with the participation of the U.S. director of the supervisory system, Frank Trinka.

This was a special meeting of the military committee and it was the first time that all three sides attended: the Israelis, the Egyptians and the supervisory system's management. Explanations of the military restrictions in zones "A" and "B" in Sinai were discussed and efficient supervisory systems for the prevention of future violations of these restrictions were set forth.

At yesterday's discussion in Cairo two forms of restrictions were agreed upon: a limitation of the overall number of soldiers and main weapons (the Egyptians have fully maintained the agreement on this type of restriction), and a restriction on the number of battalion formations the Egyptians are permitted to maintain in zones "A" and "B" in Sinai. At yesterday's discussion the sides came to a correct interpretation of this clause in the military agreement. Types of violation were also defined: violations because of human errors, such as aircraft infiltration beyond the line permitted and "deviations" such as a result of interpretations of the treaty.

The Israeli delegation to the military committee's discussions, headed by Brig Gen Dov Si'on, left Israel yesterday morning by air force plane and returned the same evening at the end of the discussions. The next meeting of the joint military committee will be held in Israel next month.

Withdrawal of Units

TA230531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Egypt has in the last few days withdrawn three superfluous units on the battalion level [misgarot gedudiyot] from the interim buffer zone in the Sinai. The units in question are an artillery force and a tank battalion which were stationed there in contravention of the military appendix of the peace treaty. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal said that this development was reported at the end of a special session held yesterday by the joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee.

BURG, MURTADA DISCUSS AUTONOMY SITUATION 23 FEB

TA231514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Sa'd Murtada, has stated that his country has asked the United States to return to the autonomy talks due to the stalemate in them. As for Moshe Dayan's plan for the unilateral implementation of autonomy, Murtada said that the plan is unclear and does not reflect Israel's official stand. He predicted that Egypt and Israel would soon ratify the cultural agreements they have drawn up. Murtada was speaking at a meeting with the director of the Jerusalem radio Arabic-language programs, David Sagiv, and several department directors.

Our correspondent, Bassam Ja'bar, reported that Murtada conferred with Minister Burg in Jerusalem this morning. They discussed autonomy, among other issues.

Further Report

TA231743 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Chairman of the autonomy ministerial team met with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Sa'd Murtada and told him about Israel's position, objecting to the establishment of a government-in-exile for the Palestinians in Cairo [as heard]. Minister Burg made it clear to the ambassador that this contradicts the Camp David agreements because they talk about an administrative council and not about a government-in-exile. The possibility of resuming the autonomy talks was also discussed during their conversation.

BEN-ELISAR INTERVIEWED ON NORMALIZATION, AS-SADAT

TA201242 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Feb 81 p 5 of Weekend Supplement

[Cairo correspondent Sami Greenspan interview with Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Eliyahu Ben-Elisar in Ben-Elisar's house near Cairo on 18 February, on the occasion of celebrating the first anniversary of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo]

[Excerpts] Question: It seems to me that President as-Sadat has done his utmost to make your task as ambassador here easier. What is the nature of your relations?

Answer (with rather a bid of pride): Yes, indeed. Open relations, relations of mutual trust have developed between us. He knows that what I have to say I say honestly.

In less than a year I was received eight times by the president and in tete-a-tete talks we spent a total of over 10 hours altogether. No other foreign ambassador in Cairo, except for the U.S. ambassador, has met with President as-Sadat so frequently.

My impression of the president? I will say the following only: The As-Sadat of the summits and official occasions is not like the As-Sadat of a private conversation. It may be thanks to this that I have managed to set up an open working relationship with him.

Similar relations have also developed between myself and Vice President Husni Mubarak with whom I have conducted open and sincere talks. I have of course also met with government-level officials. I have seen all the ministers of two Egyptian Governments since, as you may recall, there was a Cabinet reshuffle here last May.

Question: A year has elapsed since the Israeli Embassy in Cairo opened. How would you define the relations between the two countries?

Answer: We moved from a period of organizing to a period of building relations, but let there be no mistakes or illusions: We are still fighting over progress in normalization. The various agreements that were signed have not yet been ratified by the Egyptian National Assembly and the absence of ratification allows Egypt to have a reason, formal at least, to delay filling these agreements with real contents. We have been promised that the agreements will be ratified soon. However, much is being done in all fields already. Tourism, at least the Israeli tourism to Egypt, has been accelerated. Trade relations are developing although we must not be seized by illusions in this sphere. Our exports--totalling $10 billion--are mainly directed to industrial countries. We are not geared for export to a country such as Egypt. In fact, we are interested more in the human contact than the trade relations and I attach great importance to the youth exchanges that will begin this summer. In general, I feel that the Egyptians are now more prepared to develop relations with us than a year ago.

Question: What about the political sphere?

Answer: Much work has already been done in the framework committees in the important autonomy issue that is pending between us and Egypt. Guidelines from the policymakers are now necessary. The preparatory work has been done.

Question: Cairo has been sending signals to the PLO lately. What is your opinion of this?

Answer: The Egyptian policymakers surely know that we will not sit with the PLO. This is the position of both the government and the Labor Party. I believe the Egyptians are practical people.

Question: Since you mentioned the Labor Party, do you think that the Egyptians hinge hopes on Shim'on Peres' rise to power?

Answer (well-befitting a diplomat): I am suspected of a lack of subjectivity and I can therefore only cite Yitzhaq Rabin and Hayim Herzog who stated after their talks with As-Sadat that the Egyptian president happens to prefer the Begin government....

IDF RAIDS SOUTHERN LEBANON 'TERRORIST BASE'

TA230518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Last night an IDF force raided terrorists in southern Lebanon. Our force did not sustain any casualties. Upon completing the mission the force returned to Israeli territory. The IDF spokesman announced that the base raised was a terrorist base of the Arab liberation front in the village of Al-Kufur northwest of An-Nabatiyah. The base was destroyed and about 10 terrorists were killed. This base served as the launching point for the terrorist squad that attacked Kibbutz Misgav 'Am less than 1 year ago. The Arab liberation front organization also perpetrated the terrorist attack in Kfar Yuval about 5 years ago. The base was subordinate to the terrorist headquarters in An-Nabatiyah, which recently shelled Qiryat Shemona and the settlements in the Galilee panhandle.

Military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reported that several houses were blown up in the village of Al-Kufur. Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan said that last night's operation closed another cycle since the terrorist squad that perpetrated the attack on Misgav 'Am had left from the building that was blown up. After almost 1 year we returned to the same building and settled accounts with that squad, the chief of staff said.

Our military correspondent added that there are some 600 to 800 terrorists in the An-Nabatiyah area and it is the focus of organization of almost all the terrorist organizations and it houses launching points for attacks in northern Israel and villages in the Christian enclave.

The terrorists' press agency reported that the Israel unit arrived in the area aboard helicopters and a hard battle ensued. According to the press agency, Israeli helicopters and planes had earlier flown over the southern coast of Lebanon and had fired flares. The terrorists' press agency did not report any casualties.

TERRORIST PANIC IN SOUTHERN LEBANON CITED

TA240804 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1825 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Jerusalem, 23 Feb--Security sources believe that there is chaos and panic among the terrorists in southern Lebanon following several successful operations mounted by the IDF in that region.

The ITIM Jerusalem correspondent, Ilan Bakhar, adds that the terrorists were surprised by the IDF soldiers' operational ability and precision. The terrorist organizations are making desperate attempts to raise the morale of the rank and file terrorists who have recently expressed their dissatisfaction with their helplessness in everything involving fighting IDF troops.

However, security sources expect that the undermining of the terrorist establishment outside the borders of Israel will lead to an increase in attempts by terrorists living in the country to carry out internal attacks.

The Israeli police southern division continues to keep a high state of alert in order to foil any terrorist attack attempts.

On Monday, 23 February, an officer from the southern division's operational branch, Assistant Commander David Yedid, appealed to the public to help in keeping a high level of alert and call the police on any incident arousing suspicion. However, the police are asking the public to refrain from throwing away old objects or garbabe in public places so as to avoid needless panic and keeping police forces busy.

IDF UNAWARE OF SYRIAN REDEPLOYMENT IN LEBANON

TA232017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Military sources this evening told our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, that they know nothing about any change in the Syrian Army's deployment in Lebanon.

The Christians' radio stations announced this evening that a force of 65 tanks had been stationed near the Israeli border. As noted, the IDF knows nothing about any such movements.

OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION BEGINS 23 FEB

Fiseha Addresses Opening

LD240035 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 23 Feb 81 EA

[Text] The 36th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers opened in Addis Ababa today with a keynote address by Comrade Fiseha Desta, Provisional Military Administrative Council assistant secretary general, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Executive Committee member.

Comrade Fiseha called on member states to shoulder the historic responsibility of responding to the plight of the African peoples struggling to free themselves from the yoke of underdevelopment, poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease, as well as the strengthening of their organization. He derided visible attempts by a few number of countries to undermine unity and cooperation among African states. Comrade Fiseha noted that unless African states respect each other and closely cooperate to ensure the dignity of their organization, it would be naive for them to expect respect for their organization from others.

He also noted that conspiracies which pose a serious threat to African [words indistinct] political and military gains are being increasingly intensified. He drew the attention of the delegates to the danger created by the establishment of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean and the surrounding areas and said that Africa should, from the very start, take appropriate measures to counter this. This, Comrade Fiseha added, is designed to weaken the common struggle of African countries to free southern Africa, and urged that ways should be found to effectively tackle such anti-African, antipeace and antipeople conspiracies.

No Decision on SDAR

NC241227 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 Feb (AFP)--A decision on whether to admit the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) to membership of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has been put back until a special OAU conciliation committee has completed its mission, OAU General Secretary Edem Kodjo said today. Mr Kodjo, in a report to the OAU ministerial council here, added that he could do no more than wait for the committee's verdict on the republic, which has been proclaimed by Algerian-backed Polisario Front guerrillas who are fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara.

The special OAU committee, which consists of the heads of state of Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania and President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, the current OAU chairman, was mandated to rule on the dispute at the last OAU heads of state summit in Freetown in July. The committee, which has to examine Moroccan legal arguments against SDAR membership, is expected to present its final report to the next OAU heads of state summit in Nairobi, next July.

Mr Kodjo, at last year's summit, said that a total of 26 of the OAU's 50 members--the requisite simple majority needed for OAU membership--had recognised the republic and called for its admission to the OAU.

ETHIOPIA

DELEGATION RETURNS 20 FEB FROM VISIT TO ANGOLA

LD202018 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Berhanu Baye returned to Addis Ababa this morning after delivering a message from Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, to Comrade Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola.

While delivering the message from Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, Comrade Berhanu Baye, PMAC Standing Committee member and COPWE Executive Committee member, exchanged views with Comrade Eduardo dos Santos on the relations between the MPLA and COPWE, and the experiences of the struggles of the two sisterly countries.

On arriving this morning in Addis Ababa, at the end of its working visit to Luanda, the four-member delegation led by Comrade Berhanu Baye was welcomed at Bole International Airport by Comrade Legesse Asfaw, PMAC Standing Committee member and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member; and Comrade Fisseha Geda, chief of protocol in the chairman's office and COPWE Central Committee member.

SOMALIA

MOGADISHU COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT AID FOR REFUGEES

LD211552 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 21 Feb 81 EA

[(Abdurahman Saleh) commentary]

[Excerpts] The Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] looks after the refugees in a humane and responsible manner: That is the topic of our commentary today written and read by (Abdurahman Saleh):

Ethiopia oppresses and is holding in a tight yoke various communities which it administers badly. However, these communities for several decades have fought back and struggled to free themselves from this colonial yoke and achieve their independence.

Abyssinia has suffered greatly in its effort to continue colonizing these people. The ill-trained and poorly armed farmers brought to the front to fight these people who are struggling for their independence have been crushed like ants because these farmers could not see why they were fighting in areas they did not know. Young farmers from the farming communities of the Ethiopian highlands perished on various fronts where the struggle of liberation movements has heated up. The economy of the country has also become totally dilapidated. But the citizens of Ethiopia could not object to the regime in Addis Ababa about these unnecessary wars.

The government and the Somali people have stood up to help those poor people whose homes have been burned down and property looted by the barbarous rulers of Ethiopia and their forces. Recently the deputy minister of health, Challe Mohamed Farah Issa Gashan, in his office presented a cheque for 537,125 shillings and 45 cents to the deputy minister of local government and rural development, Challe (Abdi Muhammad Taraq), for the refugees in the SDR. This money was kindly contributed by the employees of the Ministry of Health between March and December 1980. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development thanked the Ministry of Health for its efforts and noble lead. This money will assist refugees who are mainly destitute people.

The plight of these people is that families were broken up during their flight, and their homes burned down; others were driven away by force.

Abyssinia ought to realize that these wars will not come to an end so long as these people are struggling for their freedom and independence. These people are determined to shake the colonial burden from their backs and will continue fighting so long as they are subjected to the oppression and massacres of Abyssinia.

RADIO KULMIS REPORTS MUTINY IN ARMY BATTALION

LD212132 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 21 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Hiran--Our reporter in the Hiran region reports that most of the 5th Battalion of the Somali army has mutinied. Our reporter adds that after this action on the part of the troops, some have been rounded up while others have fled into the rural areas.

Our reporter, who is accompanying the 15th company of the Somali Salvation Front [SSF] forces, reports that 13 Somali troops led by Second Lt (Abdi Aban Ahmad) from the 44th Company of the 5th Battalion have joined the SSF. Our reporter adds that six other soldiers led by Sgt (Abdi Muhammad Said), all of them from the signal unit of the 10th Company of the 5th Battalion stationed at Belet Uen have also joined the SSF. These signal men were among those soldiers who refused to take orders from those who are still loyal to the terrorist regime of Mogadishu led by the hyena of Garba Harre [Siad Barre]. In addition, the 9th company of the SSF received 14 soldiers under the command of Lt (Abdi Aden Muhammad) from the 5th Battalion. All these officers and men report that most of the remaining troops of the 5th Battalion will soon join the SSF.

WSLF OFFICIAL FORECASTS CONTINUED STRUGGLE

LD221646 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 22 Feb 81 EA

[Text] The western Somali masses are engaged in bitter fighting with the Abyssinian black colonialists and will continue the struggle until they attain full independence. This was declared by the secretary general of the Western Somali Liberation Front, Mr Muhammad Diriyeh Urdoh, in an interview with Radio-Television Italiana journalists.

Mr Muhammad Diriyeh Urdoh said that the situation in the Horn of Africa had deteroriated since the intervention of the Russians and their allies for their own strategic interests, thereby stifling the liberation movements in the region.

Turning to the refugee problem, the secretary general said that the killing, looting and general oppression meted out to the Western Somali people by the murderous Abyssinian regime and its allies had resulted in an influx of refugees to our neighbors, who are in urgent need of assistance from the rest of the world in taking care of the refugees. The secretary general went on to say that a solution to this problem could only be achieved through the departure of foreign troops from the Horn of Africa and recognition of the right of our people to decide their own destiny.

He concluded by calling on the peace-loving international community to condemn the foreign forces which had interfered in the affairs of the Horn of Africa and to support the western Somali people in their legitimate struggle.

UGANDA

TROOPS REPORTED LOOTING VILLAGES IN NORTH

LD202010 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Kampala--Reports from Gulu, Uganda, said today that rampaging government troops and militiamen ransacked two northern Uganda villages and drove 10,000 people from their homes.

According to government officials and missionaries in Gulu, about 25 civilians are believed to have been killed as a detachment of newly trained Uganda National Liberation Army and local militiamen looted the villages of Adjumani and Pekelle last weekend.

The missionaries said 6,000 people had crowded the mission stations in the villages and the rest of the population had fled into the bush. Local residents said the soldiers, who were mostly from the Acholi tribe which suffered repeated massacres under Amin, appeared to be exacting revenge against the villagers, who were mostly from the Madi tribe, one of those favored under the Amin regime.

Prime Minister Statements

LD211602 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Feb 81 EA

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Otema Alimadi, has visited Laropi, Adjumani and (Sepolo) in east Madi, Moyo District, to assess reports of continued problems in those areas. Moyo District was invaded by Amin's rebel soldiers during the registration of voters in October last year.

Addressing over 4,000 people of the affected areas of Adjumani and (Seplolo), Mr Otema Alimadi said the government takes seriously any activity which can further delay the restoration of peace, law and order in the country. The prime minister said the people of Uganda have demonstrated by reelecting the Uganda People's Congress into power that it was the only party [words indistinct] being capable of ensuring security for all of them, and also able to reconstruct and rehabilitate the country in the shortest time possible. In this regard, Mr Otema Alimadi assured the people that the UPC government, which is the defender of Ugandan rights, will make sure that peace and stability prevail in all parts of Uganda.

The prime minister, who also met officers and men of the Uganda National Liberation Army, reiterated his appeal to them to cooperate with the general public and refrain from any activity which causes fear and disrespect to them from the general public. He said the government was aware of the problems and difficulties under which they were working, and is doing everything possible to solve these problems.

Maj Gen Tito Okello, who accompanied the prime minister to east Madi, said the role of the army was of defending the country, protecting property of its people. He said any soldier who harasses the people, is another Amin, and therefore the enemy of the people of Uganda. He stressed that he will ensure strict discipline in the Uganda armed forces.

BRIEFS

NEW ROK ENVOY--President Milton Obote has received the credentials of the new South Korean ambassador to Uganda, Sok-hong Kang. The ceremony took place at State House, Entebbe. During the ceremony the ambassador conveyed faternal greetings from the president of South Korea to the president and people of Uganda. Earlier, the ambassador inspected a guard of honor mounted by the Uganda police. Ambassador Sok-hong Kang, who has been in the foreign service for about 18 years, has worked in Hong Kong, Japan and Cairo. He was a researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs before his appointment as ambassador to Uganda. [Excerpt] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Feb 81 LD/EA]

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

SOCIALIST PARTY CANDIDATE WITHDRAWS FROM RACE

AB231148 Paris AFP in English 1448 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Bangui, Feb. 23 (AFP)--Tandalet Ozi Okito, the leader of the Central African Socialist Party and the first person to announce his candidacy for next month's presidential elections here, today withdrew from the race for the presidency. Mr. Tandalet, who expressed fears that the campaign could turn into a bitter contest between former associates of ousted Emperor Bokassa, told AFP that it was too early to hold elections.

After 20 years of political life, without democratic elections, you cannot, from one day to the next, call the Central African people to the polls, he said. Proper electoral lists and rational constituencies had to be drawn up before elections could be held, he added.

The Movement for Democracy and Independence (MDI), which is not putting up a candidate for the March 15 poll, meanwhile called for the municipal and legislative elections to be put back six months. Legislative elections are scheduled for June. The MDI, which is led by former Justice Minister Francois Gueret, said in a communique here that the country's political groupings should be given sufficient time to put their different points of view to the people.

Confusion during the February 1 referendum on accepting a new multi-party constitution was such that it was not known how many people were registered to vote, it said.

One other candidate has put his name forward for the March 15 presidential poll. He is Francois Pehoua, former central services director of the Cameroon-based Bank of Central African States. Mr Pehoua, who announced that he will stand as an independent, is a former minister of planning, international cooperation and statistics under Bokassa. He resigned from the government after a short period in office, following profound differences with Bokassa, who was ousted in a French-backed coup in 1979.

CHAD

AUTHORITIES CRITICIZE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AB232134 Paris AFP in French 1833 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 23 February (AFP)--International organizations have been criticized by the Chadian authorities whereas an important UN delegation is expected in Ndjamena on 1 March. Generally, the Chadian authorities think that UN agencies and international humanitarian agencies are reluctant to come and set up in Ndjamena.

The CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY accuses them of maintaining a moody silence in the face of the appeal for aid launched by the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT.

In an interview with the AFP, the Chadian minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ahamat Acyl, said, on one hand, that if the distribution of food, which is taking place in the refugee camp in Kousseri, northern Cameroon were done in the Chadian capital, the 50 to 100,000 refugees there would return to their country.

On the other hand the international organizations have pointed out that they are resuming their activities slowly as security becomes more or less established there. The International Red Cross Committee, IRCC, team is getting ready to set up in the Chadian capital. Since the beginning of January that organization has been sending tens of tons of food, medicine and tools to Chad, and these are presently being distributed by Chadian medical centers in conjunction with the Ministry of Health.

It has been learned from informed sources that the activities of the IRCC could develop with the contribution of food stocks provided by other leagues of the Red Cross, by the World Food Program, WFP, and UNICEF, which is reestablishing an office in Ndjamena.

Consequently, several tons of goods will be transported to Chad in March but under difficult conditions so long as the airport remains unusable. The High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR), which has been singled out by the Chadian Government, says that it is bound by its UN mandate, that is, to help refugees.

The UN delegation, whose visit to Chad has been postponed twice, is, according to informed sources, a mission to evaluate the aid that the world organization could give to Chad. It will be composed of representatives of various agencies interested in the Chadian question as well as technicians.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU, RWANDAN PRESIDENT HOLD TALKS 22 FEB

AB231335 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda, met yesterday in Gbadolite, the headquarters of the District of Northern Ubangi, to hold talks. It is part of the normal and regular meetings dictated by the need for a harmonious development of friendly and brotherly cooperation between the peoples of Rwanda and Zaire. The founding chairman of the MPR and head of state and his guest also raised on this occasion the problems facing the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes.

I would like to remind you that the Rwandan president, Mr Juvenal Habyarimana, made a 24-hour visit to our country.

BRIEFS

AID FOR WATER PROJECT--Zaire and the African Development Fund yesterday signed two loan agreements under the terms of which the African Development Fund is to grant two loans totaling 8,600,000 units of account to the Republic of Zaire for a drinking water supply project. The agreement was signed in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, by the Zaire ambassador to the Ivory Coast and the president of the African Development Bank. [Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 14 Feb 81 AB]

CAPE VERDE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES GENERAL BUDGET

AB211429 Paris AFP in French 0715 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Praia, 21 Feb (AFP)--The general budget and the investment program were adopted by the National Assembly on Friday.

In the new budget, expenditures increased by 22.5 percent while income goes up by 38. The former stood at 1,082,260 million Cape Verdian escudos and the latter at 944.360 million.

The investment program, which is 1.6 times higher than the former year's, amounts to 3,814,320 million escudos. The principal sectors of this program include transport and communications, industry, rural development, energy and public administration.

To finance the program, 65.3 percent will come from outside; 12.4 percent from the national development fund, whose income is from the sale of items from the food aid on the local market; and 8 percent from free aid from the exterior and reimbursements from state enterprises.

GUINEA

SEKOU TOURE RETURNS TO CONAKRY FROM CAMEROON

AB231000 Paris AFP in French 0920 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Dakar, 23 Feb (AFP)--President Sekou Toure of Guinea returned to Conakry on Sunday afternoon at the end of a 5-day friendly and state visit to Cameroon, Radio Conakry monitored in Dakar reported. Before returning to Conakry, the Guinean head of state stopped over Sunday morning in Lome where he held discussions with the Togolese president, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema on the Chadian situation.

LIBERIA

'MAJOR' CHANGES IN ARMED FORCES ANNOUNCED

AB232209 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Report by (Emmanuel Frema)--recorded]

[Text] Major changes have been made within the ranks of the Armed Forces of Liberia by head of state M Sgt Samuel K. Doe, who is also commander in chief of the armed forces. Deputy armed forces commanding general (Horny Larialter) has been transfered to the capital as member of the council. He will be replaced by Maj Morris G. Zeze as deputy commanding general of the armed forces. Maj (Jerry C. Joley) of the People's Redemption Council (PRC) now goes to the executive mansion as commander of the executive mansion guard, while Commander (David Keynes), commander of the executive mansion guard has been transfered to the capital as member of the council.

Lt Col G.C. Richards was appointed GP of the Armed Forces of Liberia and [word indistinct] the Ministry of Defense. Maj [words indistinct] now of the executive mansion guard battalion while Maj (Joseph Payee) becomes executive captain. [Name indistinct] was also appointed executive officer of the executive mansion guard.

MALI

NIGER'S KOUNTCHE ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

AB221445 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpts] President Kountche of Niger, who arrived in Bamako this morning on his first official visit, said he has performing a pilgrimage to the source. [as heard] He also affirmed that the bilateral relations between Mali and Niger are at their peak, and that his visit was prompted by common political concerns.

He was given a massive popular welcome, which did not, however, surprise him, as he told a Mali radio correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Kountche] Being a head of state implies certain formalities, especially official visits like this one. But this is not my first visit to Mali, this country which is so dear to us. First, I would like to convey the fraternal greetings of the Niger people to the brave people of Mali. I also want to thank my brother and friend, President Moussa Traore, as well as his wife, for the opportunity given us--me, my wife and the members of my delegation--to be with you for a few days.

When leaders meet, it is quite normal for them to discuss a certain number of issues. We will, of course, discuss bilateral relations, which are at their peak. Our countries are, however, part of a regional entity which now faces a number of difficulties. The first of these is the problem of the drought, which has become very serious and neither Mali nor Niger are exempted from the effects, neither are our neighboring countries. The Malian head of state happens to be very much involved in finding a temporary or permanent solution to this cyclic, recurring problem.

Our continent in general and our region in particular is facing the threat of certain political conflict occasionally involving domination and hegemony. Both Mali and Niger are concerned with the establishment of peace and tranquility and they are jealous and even intransigent when their sovereignty is threatened. That is the significance to be attached to my presence once again in this historic city of Bamako and on this legendary soil of Mali.

[Question] Mr President, at this time of troubled situations in Africa, is there particular political significance in your visit to Mali?

[Answer] As I said before, Mali and Niger cannot remain indifferent to what is going on around us and even far away from our countries. The Malian head of state has other duties apart from his national responsibilities. He is chairman of the Conference of the Sahel Countries that held a ministerial conference just 2 or 3 days ago. Peace and serenity does not yet prevail in this Sahel entity.

Near my own country, there is a worrisome situation which borders on a tragedy. The situation is undoubtedly caused by the cupidity of some of our neighbors or even of powers from outside our continent. This shows you, dear Malian reporter, that before we examine other world issues, President Moussa Traore and I find these issues significant enough to take up part of our time together. [end recording]

NIGER

PLO TO BE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED IN NIAMEY

AB231038 Paris AFP in French 0937 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Niamey, 23 Feb (AFP)--The PLO will soon have an official representation in Niamey, the government newspaper LE SAHEL announced on Monday.

According to the newspaper, this decision was reached following talks President Seyni Kountche of Niger held with Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Executive Committee of the PLO, during the third Islamic Summit in At-Ta'if. These talks were followed with a visit last week of a delegation of the PLO led by the head of its African department, Mr Elherfi Salaman.

This representation, the newspaper adds, will have the status of an embassy.

NIGERIA

GUINEAN PRESIDENT MAKES 1-DAY STOPOVER IN LAGOS

AB221320 Lagos International Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] President Toure of Guinea left Lagos for home today after a 1-day visit to Nigeria. The president, who arrived yesterday from the Cameroon Republic, was met at Murtala Mohamed Airport by President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria and a number of government officials.

During his stay in the country, he briefed President Shehu Shagari on the discussions with President Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon. He said that both countries condemned Libya's intervention in Chad. He also called for the application of the Lome agreement which stipulates the withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad, the stationing of a neutral African peace-keeping force and the holding of free elections in the country in April this year.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH BP

AB231819 Paris AFP in French 1647 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Lagos, 23 February (AFP)--The Lagos government is to sign a bilateral agreement with British Petroleum (BP), the British oil company, whose assets in Nigeria were nationalized in 1979. This was announced by Lord Carrington, the British foreign secretary, in a statement broadcast Monday on Nigerian television.

Lord Carrington, who has just ended a 3-day visit to Nigeria, said that the agreement would be signed very soon in Lagos. He did not give any details on it but it is believed that the agreement will be on the exploration and the refining of oil.

In reply to a question, Lord Carrington disclosed that the stir caused in Great Britain by the nationalization of BP in Nigeria had died down and would never be revived again. Observers had thought at the time that the nationalization was linked with the situation in the rebel British Colony, Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

Lord Carrington also pointed out that his country was always willing to maintain and strengthen solid trade relations with Nigeria, the greatest economic power in black Africa.

SOLDIERS WARNED AGAINST FLIRTING WITH POLITICIANS

AB231747 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] The Nigerian Army has warned that it would deal ruthlessly with any soldiers who flirts with politicians. In the latest issue of the army publication, THE SOLDIER, [word indistinct] headquarters has been embarrassed by the use of the army (?flag) recently [words indistinct]. The bulletin declares that circulars have been sent to all army formations and units asking those engaging in such practices to desist.

MALAWI

NEW FORESTRY, HOUSING MINISTERS APPOINTED

LD220356 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Feb 81 CA

[Text] His excellency the life president, Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda, has readjusted the Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Community Development and has appointed two persons to two new ministerial portfolios.

Announcing this today, a spokesman of the office of the president and cabinet in Lilongwe said the new ministries are the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Housing and Community Development. The spokesman added that the life president has appointed Mr (John Basalonyon Liwewe) from Nkhotakota as minister of forestry and natural resources and Mr David Chiwanga, Member of Parliament for Chikwawa East, as minister of housing and community development. The readjustments and the appointments of the new ministers take effect from today, February 20th 1981.

MOZAMBIQUE

MOVEMENT OF MIG'S WITHIN COUNTRY REPORTED

LD211312 Lisbon in Portuguese to Angola, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe 1200 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Reports from Beira, in Mozambique, indicate that some of the MiG jet fighters stationed at the Beira airbase might be sent to Maputo. According to rumors circulating in military circles, these aircraft have already been used in attacks on the rebel groups opposed to the Mozambique Liberation Front. This report coincides with the current visit of Soviet Navy vessels to the Mozambique ports of Beira and Maputo.

BRIEFS

CHOLERA OUTBREAK--Maputo--An outbreak of cholera has killed more than 50 people in Mozambique. The MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY reported today that over 300 others have been hospitalized following the outbreak. The first traces of cholera in Maputo were reportedly discovered in the children's ward of the Maputo Central Hospital. According to the national director of preventive medicine, Dr Jorge Cabral, this strain of cholera is resistant to the antibiotics normally used for treatment. The news agency said cases of the disease which began last December have been confirmed in Maputo and Beira and in the coastal areas of Nampula Province in the north. [Text] [Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1900 GMT 19 Feb 81 LD/EA]

SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER BOTHA CONDEMNS USSR 'THREATS'

LD232220 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says threats by Russian will not prevent South Africa from making further attacks if necessary on ANC bases in Mozambique. Mr Botha was approached by radio RSA's political correspondent after the statement by Russian officials that further Soviet ships would be sent to Mozambique to help that country against so-called attacks by South Africa and that Russia would take suitable steps if such raids were repeated.

Mr Botha said Russia was acting with opportunism. Russia would attack Afghanistan and other countries and would threaten Poland, for instance, but if South Africa acted against the bases of terrorist organizations which were operating from bases in a neighboring country, then according to Russia this would not be allowed. Mr Botha said he could not understand Soviet logic in this matter. He had emphasized that South Africa was not seeking trouble with her neighbors, but that she would not allow an internationally oriented terrorist group to undermine her stability.

Mr Botha said that if it were in South Africa's interest she would carry out further such operations against ANC bases. He said only a small minority of blacks in South Africa had been against the raid on the ANC bases and there were tens of thousands of others who want to have nothing to do with the Soviet Union, the ANC or Marxism.

Asked about the security position on South Africa's borders, Mr Botha said South Africa would have to control terrorism at her discretion until the world decided on mutual action against terrorism. The latest statements by the United States had been heartening.

ZIMBABWE

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD231006 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 21 Feb 81 CA

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende, says Zimbabwe and the Soviet Union have agreed on the principles which will guide relations between the two countries. In a statement issued today marking the formal establishment of relations at ambassadorial level Comrade Mangwende said among the guidelines are the noninterference in each other's internal affairs. On this principle the two delegations emphasized that diplomatic relations between the Republic of Zimbabwe and the USSR will be on a government-to-government basis only and that the two governments will not enter into any agreements, arrangements or negotiations with any organization without prior consultations and explicit approval of each government. Comrade Mangwende said the two governments will strive to promote all-round bilateral mutual cooperation and to strengthen international peace and stability. He said the two governments fully concur on questions of the decolonization of Namibia and South Africa and on the elimination of all vestiges of rascism and colonialism in southern Africa and anywhere else in the world. Comrade Mangwende said as a nonaligned country Zimbabwe is determined to pursue an independent foreign policy aimed at strengthening world peace, reducing tensions worldwide and securing its political and economic interests. He said the establishment of relations between the two states marks a significant turning point and that friendship will be based on mutual respect of the sovereignty and integrity of the two countries.